which has included this issue in the National Common Minimum Programme will ensure that education in the North-East is brought up to the same level as is obtaining anywhere in this country.

With these words, I would request this House to pass this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the question is:

"That the Bill to establish and incorporate a teaching and affiliating University in the State of Manipur and to provide for matter connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up Clause-by-Clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 48 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause, 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, I beg to move;

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I adjourn the House for lunch to meet at 3 O' clock.

The House then adjourned for lunch at fifty-one minutes past one of the clock.

The House re-assembled after lunch at three of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

Devastation Caused By Heavy Rains And Floods In Southern States And Relief Measures Under taken By The Government

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the situation in five Southern States--when I say five States, it includes even Pondicherry--is very serious. Even in Pondicherry the floods have caused damage and more than...*(Interruptions)*...

AN HON. MEMBER: Pondicherry belongs to Mr. Narayanasamy.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I have visited those places ...*(Interruptions)*...

Pondicherry does not belong to Mr. Narayanasamy. It belongs to all Swamis. It belongs to all of us.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: (Pandicherry): I am not claiming that Pondicherry belongs to me. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I am not saying this. They are saying this. उपसभापति जी, मुझे मेरी पार्टी ने कुछ इलाकों में जाकर वहां की स्थिति का अध्ययन करके आने के लिए कहा। Even otherwise, I am from that part of the country. Sir, I had an opportunity to visit Bangalore. There was 'flood havoc' in Bangalore city. Certain other parts of Karnataka are also affected. And, Sir, certain parts of Andhra Pradesh have also been affected earlier. Then, I had been to Kerala. It was also affected to some extent. And, recently, I had been to Pondicherry, and Cuddalore and Chidambaram in Tamil Nadu. All these five States are badly affected. Earlier, there was havoc in the city of Mumbai, in Maharashtra, due to uprecedented rains. Today, I would like to confine myself only to these five States. The situation demands a serious attention from the House as well as from the Central Government. This is not an issue on which there can be political differences because it is a natural calamity, and people are affected very badly. I could not understand the seriousness of the situation till I saw that. Even on the day-before-yesterday, when we were there in that region, water was flowing up to the level of five feet in certain areas. Many villages are cut-off. The hon. Home Minister made an aerial survey and other Union Ministers had also visited that region. So, what I am trying to say is that this needs a serious attention from all of us.

Secondly, this situation cannot be dealt by States along. We are all aware that the States are having meagre resources and are not able to equip themselves to meet such a gigantic situation which is there in front of them.

Sir, I start from Karnataka. In the State of Karnataka, you are also personally aware, there were three spells of floods. The first one was in the Northern Karnataka, then in Bangalore and and then in the southern Karnataka. In the initial stages, we thought that it confines to only the areas of Northern Karnataka. But, subsequently, even Mangalore, Udupi, Coorg, Balgaum, Bijapur, Bagalkot, Gulbarga and Raichur are affected. Subsequently, even the Urban areas of Bangalore, Kolar, Mandya, Mysore,

Chamarajanagar, Hassan, Davanagere areas are also affected. Even the city of Bangalore has been affected. What has happened in Banglore city is something unprecedented because people say that there was a high intensity of rains after so many years. Initially, the human lives lost in the State of Karnataka were put at 119. But, subsequently, the figure has been increased. More than 30 lakh people are affected in more than 1200 villages initially. 61 Talukas are affected. Then, the Government of Karnataka submitted three Memoranda to the Union Government on different occasions and the State is asking for an amount of Rs. 3090 and add crores as relief. But, so far, the Centre has only given an *ad hoc* amount of Rs. 357 crores. Sir, what is paining me is that the help of Rs. 357 crores, which was given, was given when there were floods earlier. In response to the State Government's representation no subsequent relief has been given so far. So, that is causing problem. The Government of Karnataka does not have adequate resources to match with the thrust. So, I would like to request the Government of India to give a serious thought to it. I am not going into the details of it. The details have already been made available to the Ministry by the Karnataka Government and also by the all-party delegation. What I am trying to say is this. Houses have been destroyed, cattle have been affected, and crops have been affected, in a number of areas. The households of poor people, even in the suburbs of Bangalore also, have been washed away. The effect of all this is that people are finding it very difficult to come back to normal life because our information is--if I am wroing, I will be happy to be corrected--that we are applying only the CRF guidelines. The CRF guidelines are mostly based on droughts. If the Ministry is going to clarify it, I have no problem; I will be happy. But, the drought situation and the flood situation, both are different. In a drought, there is a loss of crops only. But in the case of floods, there is not only loss of crops, but also lives, households, cattle, etc. Even their essential areas are also affected. So, a big quantum of support is expected from both, the State Government as well as the Central Government. They have to pay a serious attention to this issue.

Sir, Bangalore is one of the pride cities of our country. It has got its own importance. So, with all the focus on Bangalore, with IT industry and the investments coming in, we need to take care of that city, and, then, evolve a special plan to see to it that the problems that have come before all of us are addressed to. The problem is that out of 136 lakes and small tanks, 90 per cent of them have been breached because there was no maintenance. Secondly, the drainage system has also totally collapsed. Thirdly, no repair has been made to the draingage system. Fourthly, one important thing,

which applies to Bangalore, which applies to Mumbai, which even applies to Chennai, is that unauthorised occupiers have come there in a big way. They are causing obstructions to the free flow of water as well as drainage. This is an issue on which one should rise above political considerations, and all should join together, and address the issue in a very determined and constructive manner. There should be a holistic approach for removing the encroachments, so that the system works efficiently. Otherwise, the same thing is going to happen again. This applies to the cities of Chennai and Bangalore also. When I wandered in the city of Bangalore, along with local MP, the complaints made at every place were that the *nalaas,* the riverbeds had been all occupied by the influential people. Unauthorised constructions had come up there, as a result normal flow of water was not allowed. And, such a heavy rain had been witnessed after 39 years. So, the system was not up to that level to tackle out-flowing of that much quantum of water. Therefore, the havoc has, naturally, been more and more devastating. So, that being the case, in Karnataka, out of 176 *taluks,* 140 *talukas* had recorded excess rainfall. Right from the end of July to the end of November, periodically, various places have been affected. And, more than 3,35,000 people have been affected in the rural areas. I will give you the figure of both, rural as well as urban, areas. More than 119 deaths have been confirmed by the Government. The livestock have also been lost on lakhs. That also is a major damage that has occurred in the State of Karnataka. So far as private property is concerned, according to the State Government, more than 67,000 houses had been damaged during the recent floods in the Karnataka State alone, in all the districts that have been mentioned. In certain areas, for example, in Belgaum, the damage was maximum, followed by Bagalkot, follwed by Raichur, and, then, Dhanbad. But in other districts also, wherever these low-lying areas are there, the damage has been maximum. So, the figure of 67,144 houses is a very huge number. The total loss estimated on account of the loss of these alone was Rs. 336 crores. About 8.71 lakh people were rendered shelterless. Their houses have been collapsed, loss of cattle and crops are other avocations of their livelihood. So, these things have to be addressed now, and they have to be really supported by the Government of India as well as by the State Governments in a meaningful manner. What I am trying to say is that the issue has to be addressed in a comprehensive manner. Farmers have to be compensated. They need to be brought under the Comprehensive Crop Income Insurance Scheme. Certain States have not shown that much interest. Now, they are facing the reality of the situation.

Secondly, the premium is high. There is a discussion now going around within the country and among the farming community that the premium levels are very high. This issue needs to be addressed and the premium levels have to be brought down to a reasonable level.

In the present case what the farmers are requesting in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh is that they want, at least, loan waiver. We cannot even think of it. But, at least, if interest waiver is done for the affected people, that will really give them some relief from this sistress, Sir. Drought means, you don't go for a crop. Here in floods, transplantation has already taken place and they have invested money and now the loss has happened. They have borrowed money from banks also. so, resettlement of loans and giving fresh loans should be done.

In addition to that, my specific recommendation and appeal to the Union Home Minister is that the interest portion of the dues from the affected people should be written off. That will go a long way in helping them and making them to get back their livelihood.

Then there is livestock also. Normally, the Government does not pay enough attention to the loss of livestock. It is the livelihood of the rural people. The Home Minister is well aware of it. In his areas also same is the case. That being the case, there has to be a special effort to help those people.

And, then, with regard to loss of crops overall, the request everywhere, in every State is that, at least, Rs. 5000 compensation per acre should be paid to those people who lost their crops. This applies to other States also where this tragedy has taken place. There has not only been loss of human life, but loss of property as well as crops also.

Sir, I now come to Andhra Pradesh. In Andhra Pradesh also, seven districts of Khammam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Nalgonda, Karim Nagar, Nizamabad, and Warangal were affected in the first phase, and, subsequently, some other districts, even Mehboob Nagar were also affected. More than 2,60,000 people were evacuated in the initial stage also. You can understand the magnitude of the problem. And the State Governments, whatever was possible by them, they tried to do their best. I have decided not to rake up any controversy with regard to the relief or rehabilitation measures taken by different States. Here our effort should be to highlight the problems faced by those States and also to find out ways and means to get maximum assistance to those States. I do not deny that there are problems and there are complaints within the States.

There may be some partiality. Whatever it is, those things can be addressed by local political parties. Those things can be addressed by local legislators and local elected representatives. I would like to utilise this occasion only to bring to the notice of the Central Government that in Andhra Pradesh also, the damage is equally serious. The State Government initially asked for Rs. 2,74 crores help, and they have requested for 12.74 lakh tonnes of rice. But the support that was given from the Government of India, initially, was also very nominal. There was disappointment among the people about the support given by the Centre to the States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. So, this needs to be revised; money is needed. But, Andhra Pradesh Government alone, as I said about Karnataka, cannot face the situation. Three lakh thirty-three thousand hectares of agricultural crop is damaged. That means, almost around eight lakh acres were affected. Around 1000 acres of crop loss was there in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Horticulture crops also were damaged. Banana, Mango, Groundnut and also paddy crops were damaged. Wherever paddy transplantation has taken place,--Sir, in our part of the country, particularly, in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, transplantation takes place in non-delta areas in the month of November-floods have come and crop is washed away. So, you have to support them by providing seeds. You need to support them by providing fresh loan again to go for agricultural operations. This is an important aspect. In addition to this, extensive damage was caused to the communication network. Telephone poles were uprooted; even electricity poles, at a number of places, even today, are not in normal shape. The water supply sources were also badly affected. Even the permanent buildings were also damaged. There were breaches to the roads also in certain places. I have photos of Nationals Highway also. On National Highways also. at number of places, the water was overflowing, and people were not able to utilize that. You can understand the serious dimension. As regards railways, at a number of places, there were breaches caused to the railway tracks. There was a serious railway accident which took place on account of this flood situation causing loss of lives of more than 100 people in the district of Nalgonda. It was a big tragedy. Unfortunately, enough attention was not paid to that. As told you, Sir, I don't want to rake up any controversy, otherwise, it is a major issue. We expected the Railway Minister to rush to the spot immediately, to give moral support. But that has not happened. The Minister of State for Railways came subsequently. But my point is, as regards the strength, the railway track, particularly on the coast and near the rivers, has to be re-examined everywhere. Because after the accidents have taken place, then, we are setting up inquiry, then,

we are trying to find out this thing. State fixes the responsibility on Centre, the Centre fixes the responsibility on State. No meaningful purpose can be achieved by this. Therefore, my suggestion is that the Railway Ministry, as a measure of safety, keeping in view the recent floods in different parts of the country, particularly, in Southern part, should take up an extensive survey about the safety and strength of the railway track. Already our railway tracks are under great stress, because they are pretty old. With this unprecedented floods and rains, they have become further weak and need detailed examination repairing and strengthening also.

Sir, coming to the State of Pondicherry, as I said, in Pondicherry also there was damage. About four people died. And, there was damage to the household, particularly, in the low-lying areas. Housing is a major problem.

Coming to the issue of Tsunami tragedy, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry require a special attention, for the simple reason that in the entire coast, the people are agitated. They have been uprooted from their houses because of Tsunami earlier. Now, there is flood situation. Sir, people were telling me in Chennai City that the rain that has come in Chennai is something unprecedented, which was not seen in the last 50 years. In Mumbai, they are saying' 94 years; in Bangalore, they are saying, '39 years' and in Chennai, they are saying 50 years. There has been an unprecedented rain. so, this uprecendented rain has caused havoc. Accidentally, Sir, I was there on the first day. One good thing I found was that, immediately, there was some attention, officials were coming and they were breaking the roads, the road dividers and all, at some places, allowing the water to go. One advantage for the Tamil Nadu alongwith the disadvantage is that sea is nearby. So, the water was able to go. But, still, the low-lying areas of Chennai were badly affected. Even in Chennai also, we appeal to the Government of Tamil Nadu as well as to the Central Government to take necessary steps. The Ministry of Urban Development, my friend Shri Jaipal Reddy, has now taken charge, and I urge on him that there has to be a special meeting with regard to Mumbai City, Bangalore City and Chennai City to discuss about bringing those cities to a normal situation because they are fast moving, and fast growing, and a lot of investment is coming. Keeping the prestige of this city in mind, you need to go in for an action plan to bring back normalcy with regard to drainage, with regard to water flow, with regard to construction in these three cities. Sir, everywhere, the complaint is the same. In Chennai also, almost all the rivulets and small, small rivers are all occupied. Now, you have to desilt

them. Rivetment has to be made and cementing has to be done on both sides because people are using it as drainage also. There is no independent drainage system in certain areas and, everytime, poor people living in those areas are getting affected. You remove them only one or two days before. Afterwards, when the situation becomes normal, they again go there, because they dont's have any place to live. What I am suggesting is that the Central Government, the Union Ministry of Urban Development should hold separate discussions with each of these city administrations, Corporations as well as State Governments and evolve a plan of a multi-pronged approach to remove those encroachments - this is number one - because human loss can be averted by taking such steps. Secondly, desilting of these tanks, rivulets and also the drainage system is needed. That will go a long way; otherwise, it will be repeated. I was afraid, so, I was just inquiring and telephoning every half-an-hour to our friends in Chennai and Andhra Pradesh also because there is, again, another cyclone threat. Threat is there even now.

Our hon. Minister will be able to tell us at what kilometres it is now, whether it is moving towards West or moving towards South. Sir, I shall narrate my own experience. Till last two-three years whenever I used to make a call to my people, party people or relatives or friends of villagers or collectors, the first thing I used to ask whether there is any rain because there is water problem in Andhra Pradesh, that part of Andhra Pradesh and in Chennai also. But now when we make telephone calls, we are asking whether the rain has stopped. Just now, I spoke to my family and asked them whether the rain has stopped because, Sir, all tanks are full. Some of the river water disputes like the Cauvery dispute or the Krishna Water dispute, God has settled them to some extent, at least, for the time being because all the reservoirs are over-flowing and now a new sort of dispute has started that because of Maharashtra, there are Karnataka floods. Then, Andhra says that because of Karnataka, there are Andhra floods. And, then, in Tamil Nadu also in the Cauvery Delta area, people are complaining that water has been released from upper stream and all that. That is altogether a different thing. But one thing is that all reservoirs are full, all tanks are full, all lakes are full, even the Veeranam Lake, Poondi Reservoir and Red Hill. ...(*Interruptions*)... So, when this being the case, any furhter inflow by rains will create a very serious situation. So, the Army has to be alerted. I am told that they have already put the Army on alert, particularly, in the coastal areas of these two States of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh has got a lot of experience now.

Every time, they do a rehearsal because every alternative year, cyclone is visiting Andhra Pradesh. Tamil Nadu also is now learning by experience. The Central Government should also provide maximum assistace. Day-before-yesterday, I was travelling from Cuddalore to Chidambaram. At a number of places, people were complaining that they have to reach their villages only through boats. They said that 'we have heard on television and radio that the Navy has been pressed into service and a lot of boats are coming', but the boats that were made available to them are inadequate. Some of them are residing on the National Highway, some of them are residing in the nearby schools, and some of them have come to the plain areas. Sir, leaving their households and going to another places, normally the farmers and the rural people do not enjoy. So, their transport communication is only through boats. There are clusters, one cluster is of four-five villages. they all told us, 'Sir, for last two days we are here only'. The minimum needs are taken care of, some food is being given, some packets are being given, some water is being given, some rice is also being distributed. I am not talking much about the relief because the relief activity has to be taken up by the State Governments. the respective State Governments are addressing this. But what is required, Sir, is rehabilitation. What is required is a long-term plan to tackle this issue. In Tamil Nadu also, this problem is widespread. Several districts like Ramanathapuram, Thanjavur, Pudukkottai, Trichy are affected, and then in Chennai also, many of the districts like Cuddalore, Chidambaram, etc., are affected. Chidamabaram is also a part of the same district. Our party made it two districts. That is why, sometimes, I think, Chidambaram is a separate city. Sir, in Chidambaram city, once the water entered the city, it entered the Annamalai University, forcing the inmates of Annamalai University to vacate the university campus. People told me about it. I said, 'How could it happen?' I went to Chidambaram. I went to railway station. The entire railway station was occupied by local Indira Nagar residents. I asked them what is the problem? They said, Sir, 'water is up to four feet level; you can come and visit our area. That is why, we are taking shelter in the railway platform.' Day-before-yesterday, that was the situation. I am just giving only a few examples in order to make the House to understand the gravity of the situation. Even now the water at four feet level is flowing there and the entire crops of paddy and mango have been destroyed. So, keep this in mind. Electricity generating stations, hill stations, are affected; telephone network is affected; and transport system is also affected in this area. Rural roads have been completely destroyed in majority of the areas because the intensity of the flow was so serious. There was a bus tragedy

also, unfortunately, in between. This tradedy took place because the water was over-flowing and the unauthorised occupations were also there. More than 94 people died in that bus tragedy. It is a very big tragedy that took place in that area. Our worry now is, what will happen today and tomorrow. From here, we can only pray to God that He should be kind enough to us not to allow further rain to come into that part of the country. In all areas, be it Chennai, Thiruvarur, Thiruvallur, Krishnagiri, Kanchipuram, Vellore, Pondicherry, or even Cuddalore, there were excess of rains...*(Interruptions)*... I do not belong to one State, I belong to the entire country and I represent Karnataka in the Parliament. I speak for Tamil Nadu also in the House...*(Interruptions)*...There are other representatives in the House for Andhra Pradesh. I have mentioned about Andhra Pradesh also.

Sir, my point is, as a result of excess rains the prices of all essential commodities have gone up. There is an item in the Hindu newspaper, on the front page, that the price of onion has gone up to Rs. 36. I am just giving one example; I am not going into details. The prices of essential commodities are going up because the inflow, the supply, is affected and this, in turn, is because roads are affected. Also trains were cancelled. So, this is another area of concern where enough attention needs to be taken.

Sir, coming to the general issues, I would like to request the Union Home Minister to kindly take the House into confidence on issues like what is the support requested from the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Pondicherry. What is the support offered by the Centre? What is it that the Centre is planning to provide again? Two Central teams have visited the affected areas; there was a first visit and then a second visit. What is the report that they have given? On these issues the House needs to be taken into confidence. Is there any proposal before the Government to amend the CRF regulations? I am told that a GoM was set up for this purpose in the month of August. So far, the GoM has not met even once to address the issue of changing the guidelines of CRF. Is it so?

Then, concerns have been expressed by the states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka that they did not get adequate support in the first instance itself. How is the Centre going to assuage their feelings? In what way are they going to address the issue? Andhra Pradesh had asked for Rs. 2746 crores and the Centre has given Rs. 344 crores. Tamil Nadu has asked for Rs. 3000 crores and an initial amount of

Rs. 500 crores has been sanctioned. As I told you, the problem is gigantic. The same is the case with Karnataka also.

Keeping the seriousness of the situation in mind, what is the plan of action prepared by the Central Government? Are you going to abide only by the CRF regulations, or, are you going to relax them? Are you going to give an additional package to the cities of Mumbai, Bangalore and Chennai, which are badly affected and which are important centres of investment in our country?

Sir, speaking about general issues, I shall now come to brief and concrete suggestions. I would urge upon the Union Government to first of all have a separate meeting with these States regarding their capitals. Take everybody into confidence and evolve a plan of action under the guidance of the Ministry of Urban Development about Chennai, Bangalore and Mumbai also. There should also be serious discussions about the drainage system. HUDCO and other international agencies could also be requested to intervene in this matter, because the amount that is required is very huge and the money that is available with the local bodies is very meagre as of now.

Then, a programme for desiltation of lakes, ponds and tanks needs to be effected. The Union Rural Deveopment Ministry, the Gramin Kranti Rozgar Yojana and Food For Work, or any such scheme, could also be involved in a big way in the villages and panchayats for the desiltation programme. That is very much necessary.

Then, Sir, coming to the various departments of the Central Government such as the Telecom Department, when I was moving around in Tamil Nadu, I found Reliance people working in some places, but I could not find BSNL people. I am not making any complaint. The BSNL, which is a Government of India body, should be much more active at the times of distress, come to the rescue of people, and restore communication. If they have done something, that is well and good; I have no problems with that and I am not complaining. I am only saying what I saw when I went there and I am just bringing it to your notice.

Then, Sir, the Union Health Ministry should come into the picture too, because continuous water logging is there. You need to provide more medicines and sanitary facilities. I was just mentioning to my friend. Shri Narayansamy, that one of my party MLAs from Pondicherry, Shri Krishnamurthy, had shown his foot to me that had a lot of boils on it. And he was saying that because continuously he was moving around that

areas, which is a low lying and water logged area, he got that problem. If that is the fate of MLA, we can understand the problem of common people living in those areas. This is a larger issue which has to be taken up even with the Planning Commission also and we have to make it more meaningful. Otherwise, the Government of India — we were also in the Government for some time — may not tide over the situation. People actually ask for compensation. Every farmer thinks that he should be given something. But how much money? The contribution is very high. So, keeping that in mind, the permanent remedy is not crop insurance, but crop income insurance. The crop insurance means compensation only for the damage of the loan portion. But crop income means, what is the yield I would like to get and what is the loss that occurred to me. Our Government has initiated that and started implementing it also. Now every State has to be involved in this and it has to be made more comprehensive and it has to be taken on priority basis. Then, I come to National Highway also. My friend, Mr. T.R. Baalu, who is the Minister, has also seen the situation there. We are to go in a big way and see to it that wherever there are breaches, they are closed immediately. Then the Indira Awas Yojana and Valmiki-Ambedkar Yojana. these are two schemes — one is for the urban area and the other is for the rural area. People who have lost their houses, for them houses have to be re-built. People may not be able to do it themselves. People who are living below the poverty line are of low-income groups. All of them, who have lost their lives, have to be covered on priority. If necessary, sacrificing some other areas, this has to be addressed to. Then, Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): You are taking all the points. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री उपसभापति: समर्थन कर दो उनका, बस हो गया।

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I agree with them ...*(Interruptions)*....

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: He essentially toured Tamil Nadu because of ensuing election.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: My point is that the compensation offered in Karnataka, compensation offered in Tamil Nadu and the compensation offered in Maharashtra are different. Andhra Government is giving certain amount of compensation, Karnataka is giving something else, Maharashtra is giving something else, and Tamil Nadu is something else, Keeping this in mind, we have to evolve a uniform approach. Supposing, Madam is giving Rs. 2000, some *dhotis,* some sarees and utensils, I have no problem

over that. My point is that compensation for the houses, compensation for the crops, compensation for the cattle, at least, has to be uniform under the guidance of the Central Government. Otherwise, there will be problems. I have come across a peculiar situation in Bangalore city. My friend, Shri Jairam Ramesh is here. People who died in Bangalore city Corporation, the compensation given to them was Rs. 1,00,000. People who died within Bangalore, but outside the limit of Corporation, the compensation given to them was Rs. 50,000. In Andhra Pradesh, it is Rs. 1,00,000.

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): It is Rs. 1,00,000 for a person and Rs. 5000 for the cattle.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Is it in urban area or rural area?

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: People who have died in Bangalore, the compensation is Rs. 1,00,000.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: What I am trying to say is, if I am wrong I will be corrected, I will be happy. When I visited Uttarahalli to certain areas — I have notes also with me — people there told me that they are given Rs. 50,000 whereas the Corporation is giving Rs. 1,00,000. When I asked them, they said: Corporation has got the money, but the D.C of the rural area does not have that much amount. If everybody is given one lakh, it is fine; I have no complaint. I don't want to score points here. This is not the issue on which we can score points. There are other forums available for that; they will do it themselves.

I am just coming to my last point that the State Governments should be advised by the Government of India that whatever assistance is given, it has to be transparent; it has to be made public in Panchayat offices, and also through the local newspapers. If details like the amount of rice given, the amount of money given, along with the names of the persons is distributed and a copy is marked to the political parties, that will go a long way to have transparency and also avoid criticism. Secondly, at a later stage, every State need to call an all-party meeting, take suggestions from the different political parties and then start implementing those suggestions, that will also go a long way in avoiding criticism and also help in getting meaningful suggestions. After all the political parties repersent the people and they get a good feedback. This should be followed rater than simply depending on the official machinery. This is another suggestion. I know the federal structure of the country but we can definitely advise through Parliament and also through the Ministry to the States to

call all-party meetings and take everybody into confidence. I request the hon. Union Home Minister and also the hon. Prime Minister to call an all-party meeting at the national level because different States are ruled by different parties, different combinations. Unnecessray controversies should not come in the future. The broad guidelines on which we have decided to extend Central assistance can be conveyed to the Opposition Leaders and take their suggestions also. This is one way where we can have a meaningful understanding and take up this natural calamity in a more meaningful way so that we will be able to address the problems of the people, if not totally, to some extent, at least, to our satisfaction. I only conclude by saying that the Central Government should have large-heartedness, should give maximum assistance to the States and address the problems of the farming community, particularly, and also these three urban metro cities in a bigger way .

In the end, I thank you for having given me the opportunity to speak on this issue.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, the hon. Member has made very good suggestions and while responding to the entire debate as such, I would be replying to the points which he has made. But on only one point, I want to make the position of the Government very clear so that the point may not be repeated by other hon. Members, and, that is on funding; in what fashion, the funds would be given.

We have two funds available with the Government of India. One fund is Calamity Relief Fund and the other is National Contingency Calamity Relief Fund. Under these two headings, some funds are given. But the hon. Member knows and we all know that these funds are very limited. That is why we are not depending on these funds. We have been making *ad hoc* grants available to the State Governments and you will be happy to know that the *ad hoc* amounts of money given to the State Governments are in hundreds of crores of rupees. To the Government of Gujarat, Rs. 500 crore were given, to the Government of Maharashtra, at one stage, Rs. 500 crore, and, again, Rs. 500 crore were given. Then, to Tamil Nadu also, Rs. 500 crore were given. Now, these are the grants, these are the funds given to the State Governments at the initial stage.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Other than the CRFS.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Other than the CRFS. It has nothing to do with CRFS. And, it is not possible to give this kind of money out of CRFS.

But we are not saying that this rule is the only kind of money that will be given to the State Governments. We are also suggesting to the State Governments that they should prepare meticulous plans for reconstruction of the infrastructure and to construct the houses and things like that, and, send those plans to the Government of India. That means, if the roads are damaged, we cannot make the payment on the basis of a memorandum given to us. We are asking them to prepare a plan. If the power generating stations are damaged, we are asking them to prepare the plans. If the houses have to be constructed, we are asking them to send us a plan. Those plans will be examined by the Planning Commission and the NDMA, the National Disaster Management Authority and the concerned Ministries here, and we would be giving them extra funds which would be required for re-construction and rehabilitation. What is given to them at the initial stage is the funds, the money, for meeting the requirements of providing relief, an interim relief, to the people. This is not the only kind of money which will be given. So, this point is likely to be raised by many hon. Members; Rs. 500 crores are not enough, we have demanded Rs. 3,000 crores, etc. We have not said that Rs. 3,000 crores will not be given or will be given. We have said that if required, we will examine them. And, if it is found that they are according to the requirements of the States, we will try to see that that money is also given. So, the CRP Fund, one, the NCRF another, *ad hoc* fund is third and the fourth is when proper plans are made and sent to us, we will give them that. So, I am making this point clear so that other hon. Members would not say that we are given Rs. 500 crores; we need Rs. 3,000 crores or Rs. 5,000 crores.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: What about the cyclone?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: As far as cyclone is concerned, it is about 400 kilometers away from the coastal plains. It is in a static position now. I was told that it is slowly moving towards Andhra Pradesh, in the northern direction. It may disappear also. Four hundred kilometre distance is not a ...*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KERALA): Sir, I want...*(Interruptions)*..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. It is still not over. A Minister has always a right to intervene in the middle of the debate and he has intervened. I will not allow you.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: But, Sir...*(Interruptions)*... .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no, I will not allow you. It will vitiate the debate. Mr. Janardhana Poojary, it is your turn.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY (Karnataka): Sir, at the very outset, with heavy heart, agony and anguish, I bring to the notice of this August House and also the Government of India the devastation that was caused on acount of the floods and rains in these end months. Sir, I do not want to go into the other States, even though the Short Duration Discussion is for the Southern States, namely, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and een Pondicherry and Kerala. Sir, our hon. Members of Parliament representing these States are here. They will highlight their grievances and also the agony of the people which they suffered. I will confine myself to Karnataka first and will not go into the details of the others. But, while suggestion will be made, it will be for the Southern States. Sir, as stated by the hon. Member of Parliament representing Karnataka. Mr. Venkaiah Naidu--he has covered many of the points and given many valuable suggestions--I want to bring to your notice what had happened in Karnataka. About 1315 villages were affected in three phases of the calamity that has been witnessed recently. First time heaviest known floods occurred in the first week of August 2005. That was in the Krishna Basin. These floods were caused by the heaviest release of water from Koyna and other dams in Maharashtra into the river Krishna. The floods inundated 1315 villages in five districts in Northern Karnataka, namely, Belgaum, Raichur, Bagalkot, Gulbarga and Raichur. Sir, in the second phase, which occured in the third week of September, 2005 heavy releases of water from Dhanegao reservoir in Latur district of Maharashtra, Manjra and Kharanja rivers had floods which affected Bidar district, which caused extensive damage to the standing crops, roads and bridges, and electrical installations. Damages were so heavy that everybody was taken by surprise just like tsunami.

Sir, the second half of October, 2005, recorded highest rainfall in the last 104 years in Raichur district and caused havoc in eight southern Karnataka districts of Bangalore (Urban), Bangalore (Rural), Madhya, Hassan, Mysore, Kolar, Tumkur and Chamarajanagar. Sir, as you are aware and as has been explained by the hon. Member of Parliament from Karnataka, the State Government came to the rescue in Bangalore. Never had Bangalore and people of Bangalore witnessed such a devastating destruction.

Sir, now three memoranda were submitted to the Government of India. One Central study team toured Karnataka and submitted its report. The Government of Karnataka was given Rs. 367 crores in the first instance. Afterwards, Sir, in the second and third phases of destruction, a central

study team consisting of seven members toured the State and submitted its report. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he can enlighten the House about it, whether he has received the Report, and as to what action has been taken on those reports. Now, Sir you are aware of the fact that Karnataka witnessed drought for four years. Never had it happened in the history of Karnataka. People were not getting anything to eat in the rural areas, particularly rural people. Sir, you know as to what had happened. So many farmers have committed suicides. I toured the State. In one family, there were deaths of seven children. When I went there, the father and the mother told me that they were without food for seven days and that they were asking for food. The family was in debt. They could not pay their debts and that is why the plight was like that. Seven children!

Now, what happens when such kind of devastation takes place? Sir, about 200 people died; children lost their parents; and even the children died. Two lakh hectares of standing crops were damaged worth about Rs. 90 crores. Sir, more than 30 lakh people were affected by it. The estimated damage to the infrastructure on account of floods is Rs. 300 crores. Ninety thousand houses were damaged. Sir, let us place ourselves in the plight of those farmers and those people, whether they are farmers in rural Bangalore or in Tamil areas, who are without food. Everything was lost. Houses and industries were damaged. They don't have clothes; nothing is there and on the contrary, there is debt because of drought and also because of the devastation. What they will have to do? They can wait for some solace. Yes, the hon. Prime Minister and also the UPA Chairperson, Mrs. Gandhi, rushed including the Home Minister and they consoled the families. They visited some parts of the State. Sir, what is the action on the part of the Central Government? Whether that will be adequate. Sir, the Chief Ministers from other States and the Chief Minister of Karnataka also rushed. But the rehabilitation and relief work that was rendered was not at all sufficient. Now, what they have to do? They can wait for one month, they can wait for two months without food, without clothes and without anything. What they have to do? They want to live. Alternative is either to go in for suicide or be Naxalites. Sir, it is a national calamity. We are spending on Naxalites to meet their challenges. If I can't live, what I have to do? that is why the Central Government has to think. They have to devise the guidelines and they have to expedite the relief work and unless we do it, I don't think, history will forgive us. Sir, now, for that purpose, I am submitting before the August House. Now, you should act immediately. Your Central Team should go there and after submission of the report, whatever you want to

give, give it immediately and monitor it also. Unless it reaches, nothing will happen. So, even the officers from the Central Government shall go.

Sir, now rescheduling of the loans is taking place. We thank the Government; we thank the Finance Ministry also. Sir, they phased that out. They can't bear that debt. Now, how can they pay interest? Whether the Central Government can pay the interest or whether it will be in a position to write off the interest. We used to do that. Why can't we say "No, we are going to give you relief, we will write off the interest." Then, it is a message and it will be a hope for them to live. For that purpose, I am requesting you for some immdiate action. Sir, our Finance Minister should have been here. Agriculture Minister should have been here. They are the people who are going to assist the Home Minister. The Home Minister has also visited the places. He is a committed man; he is a kind-hearted man. But what I am submitting before you is, Sir, our Karnataka Government has given the loans to the farmers at the rate of six per cent and we are subsidising it through cooperative banks. Why can't the Central Government do that? Whether the Central Goverment is not in a position to do that. What has happened to differential rate of interest of four per cent to poor people? Whether we are giving it now. We are not giving it. Now, what has happened to other programmes? Whether they are implemented. Now, we have to see all these things. The Finance Minister should come here and say " Yes, this is the plight of the people and I have to rethink and we have to come with new measures." Otherwise, it will not be possible. What about the crop insurance? My hon. friend has made a vialid point that the premium is very high. Can't we change it? Can't we subsidise it? Whom are we helping? We are helping the farmers of the country, who have become ann datta for us. If we do not take any action even after seeing 4 years of drought and devastation caused by it, if we are not getting awakened even now, and if we just want to say that Rs. 500 crores have been given as a grant, whether it is sufficient or not, things will not improve. Today morning, during Question Hour, it has been stated in the House that we are giving loans for vehicles. At what rate are we giving loans for vehicles? We are giving housing loans. At what rate are we giving housing loans? And for farmers and poor people, we are not in a position to reduce that rate of interest. the entire country is looking at us. It is a very serious debate which is taking place Now, I want that the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Finance should have been present in the House, and they should have taken immediate action. Sir, the magnitude of the havoc caused is well known. If we speak something, and do not do anything to

4.00 P.M.

rectify the situation, we will not be forgiven by the people. For whom is the economy meant? It is meant for the people, and not for a particular section of the society. You have to understand this. Who are generally affected by these natural calamities? Not rich people but poor people. Sometimes, it happens that in the villages they are affected. But most of them are poor and middle class people. If their plight is not taken care of, it will be very difficult for us. So, for that purpose, I am just bringing to your notice one thing. Change the norms, change your guidelines also...*(Interruptions)*...

MR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Four more Members from your Party have to speak. Keep this thing in mind.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Right, Sir. I will conclude quickly. Sir, we have seen the sufferings, the nation has witnessed the sufferings. Now, it is time for the Government to act. With these words, I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Penumalli Madhu...*(Interruption)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, the hon. Member has given a good suggestion. The hon. Minister, Shri Suresh Pachouriji, can send a word to the Agriculture Minister and the Finance Minister, who are in the other House, to come ti this House because, it would be mote useful, as Shri Janardhana Poojari has made a good point. It is for others.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: This matter will be brought to the notice of the Finance Minister. Probably, he is also doing some other things in the other House. Now, we shall have to remember that when we were dealing with the problem created by Tsunami, some steps ahve been taken, and immediately, it is not necessary ti make an announcement and all those things. We will consider these things for proper action.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I request hon. Members ti keep the time in view because, there are about 16 or 17 speakers, who are likely to speak on this subject. Please stick to the Party's allotted time.

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the situation, today, in the flood=affected areas is very alarming. The magnitufe of the problem, if we analyse it properly, is something different from the earlier flood situation. This is the fourth incident of floods in Tamil Nadu. In the last few months, in Tamil Nadu, nine districts were affected in the first incident of floods; in the second and third incidents of floods, another nine districts were affected; in the recent one, twenty-two districts were affected. Almost four lakh acres of paddy cultivation have been damaged. A large number of properties

of the peasantry and the Government has been damaged. The entire network, whether it is the railways of the national highways-of the communication system, is damaged. A lot of cattle died. Today, in Tamil Nadu, it is a very serious issue. If we look at the flood situation all over India, the situation in the southern States, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and parts of other adjoining States, is very alarming. Criticisms have been raised by a number of political parties. Now they are raising three issues. One is lack of advance warning. Second is evacuation of people from low-lying areas. Third is insufficient relief operations. These are the three issues. In the flood affected parts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, a part from a huge loss of life and properties, the entire agriculture and the rural economy is damaged. We have not seen this type of a damage earlier. A new situation has arisen. What is the new situation? My friends in the august House, everybody, are accepting the seriousness of the situation. What is the remedy? What is the new situation that has arisen? We have seen floods earlier. In the last 26 years, 26 big cyclones hit Andhra Pradesh. Almost every year a cyclone his Andhra Pradesh. The same is the situation with regard to Tamil Nadu. Now, a rew situation has arisen not only in rural areas but also in urban centres like Hyderabad, Channai, Bangalore and Bombay. They are all affected. According to me, today, we have to do one thing urgently. For the last 10-15 years our spending on agriculture and allied activities has come down enormously. In the recent floods in Andhra Pradesh about 2500 tanks have been breached. Similarly, the same thing has happened in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and other places. My own experience is that a number of tanks, which ahve been breached in Andhra Pradesh, have not been repaired. Sufficient funds are not there with the State Governments. The State Governments are suffering from lack of funds. The Government of India has enormously reduced the public spending on agriculture and allied activities and if we see the percentage of total expenditure in the fifth Plan it was 12.50 per cent, in the Ninth Plan it was 4.50 per cent and in the Tenth Plan it was 4.60 per cent. Like that if we see the spending from the Government of India and the State Governments, it has gone down enormously. The net result is that the tanks are not being repaired because there is not enough money with the State Governments. Every time relief operations are not organised properly and the expected relief is not provided to the people. Sir, here the new policy of the Government of India on agriculture and rural development is the main reason for this and that is why we are unable to tackle the flood situation in India. You do not understand that particular aspect. Every tiem we are talking of

relief, which is provided, only to a certain extent. But the problem to a large extent remains the same. So, my humble submission is that unless the Government of India takes a position -- not of a facilitator - and provides sufficient amounts of money for agriculture, this type of floods and this type of situation cannot be tackled. For this rason, I suggest that the Government of India should come out with a new policy to release more funds for the States for organising relief operations and for providing irrigation facilities so that floods can be controlled. Unless it is done it is very difficult to tackle teh situation. Sir, in Andhra Pradesh 4500 TMC of water from the Krishna and the Godavari rivers has gone into sea in one month. Only from these two rivers 4500 TMC water went into the sea as waste. If this water is tackled, four crore acres of land can be irrigated and the entire Indian population can be provided drinking facility for one year. In the Ist few years, the Government of India has changed its policy and is not extending sufficient financial support to the State Government, which has ultimately led ti a big problem where our peasantry could not utilise it. So my humble submission is: now, I request the Minister from the Government of India to convene an all-party meeting. If this all-party meeting is called in Delhi and it reviews the flood situation, taking help from Opposition Parties, organising relief operations, it will help the States in any flood of any other natural calamity, particularly, the situation that has come up now. If we do not involve all political parties, mass of the people, the relief operation is difficult to rach the people. There is a huge loss of 2700 crores in Andhra, 3000 crores in TN, another 3000 crores in Karnataka. Apart from this, in the State of Andhra Pradesh four lakh sheep died. Like that, if we take all this into account the loss is so high. My request is Government of India should come out with a much higher helping hand ti the State Government. Unless it is done it is difficult to meet the situation. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can take only two minutes. There is less havoc in Kerala.

SHRI M.P. ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI (Kerala): Sir, our predecessor speakers have very prominently gone into the details of this subject and specially, Mr. Venkaiah Naiduji, Mr. Janardhana Poojary and Mr. Madhu. I am only supporing the views and sentiments expressed them. Sir, there are few suggestions regarding railways and roadways. Special attention has to be paid. I think, the hon. Home Minister will take this into consideration. Again, it is a double shock for the people of Tsunami affected areas as already mentioned by Venkaiah Naiduji and I think that area has also to be attended to with importance. Sir, the hon. Home Minister was

intervening in the discussion. He was giving a picture of the Government's plan and programme and what the Government is going to do. But in respect of Governmental implementation, time factor has to be taken into consideration and those things have to be implemented without delay. Sir, I avail of this opportunity finally to seek some clarifications regarding Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. I was thinking to raise this issue many times in this House but I take this opportunity because we may not be getting these kinds of opportunities always. Sir, this Prime Minister's Relief Fund was a very good system. It was functioning very well. That was an asylum for many people who are under the poverty line and patients who are suffering from various kinds of illnesses. But, Sir, through MPs, our poor people used to aproach Prime Minister;s National Relief Fund and they used to get remedy, they used to get help. But, Sir, in recetn years, many of the deserving applications are rejected. Very deserving applications, with very serious.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It has nothing to do with floods.

SHRI M.P. ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI: Sir, it is a calamity. There is a link with the subject.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are talking about patients and then you are talking about floods. There is no comparison.

SHRI M.P. ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI: No, Sir, this is a personal calamity. Not only that, Sir, -- I am concluding, Sir, I am not taking much time - we are told that on some occasions, the entire amount is taken to meet the challenges of national calamities. But that is not fair. For that, the Government should find out other resources. They divert this fund to meet other challenges, calamities.

For example, when Gujarat earthquake took place, we were told and there was a report that the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund was released to spend there. That is not the correct thing. This Fund has to be utilised only for this purpose. For national calamities, the Government have to find out some other source. Let us confine to that. And, rules and regulations of the national fund ahve to be relaxed so that more people can avail of it. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri P.G. Narayanan. You should limit your speech within the time allotted to you because there are three Members to speak on this from your party.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: (Tamil Nadu): Yes, yes. I will confine my self to the subject. Sir, Tamil Nadu is the most affected State.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Today, the House set a very good practice. We are discussing the issue by rising above the party lines. So, let us not create any controversy. Let there not be any conflict between the Members of AIADMK and DMK. Let us concentrate on the relief and rehabilitation to the affected States.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: They are only creating problems. Out State has been facing a series of natural calamities in the last few years. We has three successive droughts and the total loss of crops due to non-release of Cauvery water...*(Intrruptions)*...

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: In what way release of Cauvery water is relevant? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: If we give water, they have a problem. If we don't release water even then they have a problem! ...*(Interruptions)*...

P.G. NARAYANAN: Sir, I have to narrate this incident to show how Tamil Nadu is reeling continuously under natural calamities. That is why I am narrating this. Samba crop worth several hundreds of crores weathered away. Coastal districts of the State faced a devastating Tsunami last December where over 10,000 people perished and property worth several thousands of crores damaged. This September, Karnataka, once again, created a disaster by releasing surplus waters from their reservoirs to Mettur Dam without notice. This has resulted in a serious flood situation in Srirangam areas of Tiruchirapalli district. The entire Srirangam town could have been washed away, but for the judicious release of flood waters by Tamil Nadu Government into sea. This goes on to prove our repeated charge that Karnataka has converted the glorious Cauvery River into a drainage canal. When the state was recovering from all these calamities, chennai city and its adjoining districts experienced unprecedented torrential rains of 44 centimetres within two days virtually paralysing the infrastructure of Chennai city.

The recent spell of rains in Southern districts of Tami Nadu has almost destroyed the crops completely, besides causing havoc to the irrigation system, tanks and roads network. These disasters have forced the State Government of Tami Nadu to build the State from scratch. The Centre, it appears, is not keen to understand the gravity of the situation. Releasing small amount is not going ti touch even the fringe of the problem. The

Centre should realize that State need to be rebuild once again. Roads, tanks, irrigation systems need to be constructed on a war-footing to restore confidence in the people. Sir, crop losses have been heavy and this would affected each and every family of my State.

Nearly 60 per cent of the State's six crore population is reeling under the impact of these floods. The relief measures of such a major tragedy should be decided at the political level, between the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister, and not at the level of Joint Secretaries. I strongly criticize the casual attitude of the Centre in dealing with such a major catastrophe.

Sir, the President of India is going there to visit the flood-affected areas. Why not the prime Minister and the UPA Chairperson? It Tamil Nadu not important for them? Only last year, our State had elected 40 MPs, who are behing them. When such is the situation. ...*(Interruptions)*... Why could they not find time to visit the affected areas. ...*(Interruptions)*... Why are they interrupting? *(Interruptions)* They are wasting my time. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA (Tamil Nadu): No, no. It is our full right to ...*(Interruptions)*... We are requesting them why not the Prime Minister ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think, you should speak one by one. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Vasan, you will be speaking ...*(Interruptions)*... No; no. Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Listen please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Listen please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: He had gone there. ...*(Interruptions)*...What is wrong in that? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I request you not to make it a Tamil Nadu's party politics issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... No; no. Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down ...*(Interruptions)*... If the Minister wanted to remind that the hon. Home Minister had visited ...*(Interruptions)*... Not he, but the hon. Home Minister ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: He has only experssed that the Government of Tamil Nadu has not been given full...*(Interruptions)* Sir, he is creating such a problem...*(Interruptions)* We have full rights to ask...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. *(Interruptions)* No; no. Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...You are wasting your time...*(Interruptions)*... I will deduct it from...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has been camping in the affected areas for the last one week.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please don't make it a party issue ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: She is daily meeting the flood-affected people to console and to distribute relief materials...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, what I will do is, I will reckon this time and deduct it from the time allotted to the Tamil Nadu MPS. ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAIRMAN RAMESH (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, when the Prime Minister went to Tamil Nadu, the Chief Minister did not even receive...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please confine to the issue because this is a very serious issue. ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: The Prime Minister should immediately hold discussions with the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and decide on a concrete plan to rebuild the infrastructure of Tamil Nadu.

About 300 people have perished during the last one week due to flash floods. More than ten lac people have been evacuated from lowlying areas and provided food and shelter by the State Government. They have to be rehabilitated. Over 25,000 kilometres of roads have been totally damaged. these roads have to be rebuilt from a scratch. About 3,000 irrigation tanks and 1,500 river banks have been breached due to heavy floods. Bridges and culverts have also suffered heavy damages. Standing crops in four lakh hectares are floating under water now. I can go on listing the damages suffered by the people of my State. The State Government has sought a very small sum of Rs. 3000 crores to be released immediately from the National Calamity Contingency Fund, as an interim measure, to meet the immediate needs. Our hon. Chief Minister has already written to the Prime Minister demanding Rs. 3,000 crores to be released. The response of the Centre has been totally inadequate to say the least. This type of attitude would only alienate the people of the State of Tamil Nadu. I would urge the Centre to realize the gravity of the situation and act immediately.

The Central Team which is currently visiting Tamil Nadu should be asked to conduct a detailed assessment of the damages. But, going by the track record of the past, and the kind of assistance offered to Karnataka

and Andhra Pradesh recently, there cannot be much hope of Central assistance. As against Karnataka's damage estimate of Rs. 3,640 crores, the Centre approved only an assistance of just Rs. 255 crores. For Andhra Pradesh, the estimate was Rs. 2,746 crores, for which the Centre released just Rs. 344 crores. But, only Rs. 500 crores have been released to Tamil Nadu as against its demand of Rs. 3,000 crores as an initial assistance. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is right. *(Interruptions)*...Mr. Narayanan, *(Interruptions)*.... Mr. Narayanan, what is...*(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): When compared to Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, Tamil Nadu people have to thank that they have got Rs. 500 crores as advance. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Let me complete. ...*(Interruptions)*... Why are you interfering? *(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is a Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: He is a Minister, but he cannot disrupt...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Narayanan, you see, the hon. Home Minister said ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: The Home Minister will reply...*(Interruptions)*...Why is he interfering ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, he is not interfering. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: ...but they are taking away my time. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: In order that the Members do not repeat the same thing, the Home Minister has said that it is an ad hoc amount. After assessment, he is going to consider again. He has made it very clear to the House. Let us not repeat it again.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: If this is going to be the attitude of the Centre in dealing with the natural calamities, then, such a callous attitude could pose a threat to the unity and integrity of the country. The State Governments have only limited resources, then, how are they expected to fund a severe natural calamity? This is what I wanted to say. The Central Government can no longer sit idle. The regional aspirations should be reflected to the Central rules. It is time that regional aspirations are

respected adequately. I have the highest regard for the Home Minister, he has visited our places, and we believe that he will, definitely, render justice to our State.'

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, Andhra Pradesh is the worst affected State in Southern States wherein the people at large, and the agricultural fields are badly affected. Sir, I have a copy of the statment made by the hon. Home Minister in this House on the 28th of this month. I am quoting the figures from the statement made by the hon. Home Minister. Sir, "about 87 people died in Andhra Pradesh alone during the months of September and October. About 1,20,463 houses were damaged/collapsed and people were rendered homeless." Sir, I would like to request the hon. Home Minister to recollect his own speech which he made on the Disaster Management Bill, wherein he mentioned that during the calamities and situations like these, four things should be kept in mind. One is, rescue operations; second is, relief, then, rehabilitation and reconstruction. If my remembrance goes well, these were the four important major factors which he had mentioned.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN) In the Chair]

Sir, as far as rescue is concerned, that part is now over. As regards the relief part, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House an interesting aspect. I am drawing the attention of the House to the news items of today's newspaper, a popular daily in Andhra Pradesh, 'Eenadu' wherein they have narrated the plight of the poor people who have lost their parents, who have lost their houses. Two girls have narrated their plight to the reporter in Khammam district. Sir, the relief has not reached the people. According to the Chief Minister — we have been given copies of the letter written by the hon. Chief Minister — the assistance extended or announced by the Central Government has not reached the State Government. I will read out the paragraph. "The Home Ministry had recommended an adhoc relief of Rs. 100 crores and 1.5 lakh metric tonnes of rice on 4th November, 2005. However, this has not yet been effected as it was indicated that NCCF does not have enough funds as of now." Sir, the announcement was made by the Government of India for a relief of about Rs. 100 crores from the NCCF. The Chief Minister had written a letter. He also led a delegation there. It was an all-party delegation. We were there in that delegation. On 28th, we met the hon. Prime Minister. There, he mentioned that the announcement made by the Government of India has not yet been fulfilled. They said that it had been indicated that

there was no money in the NCCF. I would like to be enlightened on this point by the hon. Home Minister. Sir, 1.5 lakh tonnes of rice are expected to be released shortly. This announcement was made on 4th November. If that is the standard of relief work undertaken by the State Government with the help of Central Government, how we can expect the people to sustain and survive? The plight of the poor people from Khammam district has been narrated very wildly. I am unable to translate it into English and circulate it among the Members. Sir, apart from this, they have also cited three, four names. Nothing is given to the people. There are classic examples of Bhadraiah, Kondaiah, etc. These are the names mentioned in the report. The relief announced by both the Governments, the Central Government and the State Government, has not reached the affected people. Sir, I would like to know from the Government about the release of rice, and also the release of amount extended to the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The other parties are now giving about Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000 as an immediate relief to the affected families. Sir, I would like to request the hon. Home Minister to see that it is enhanced. It is not at all adequate to meet the immediate requirements of the affected families. As fas as the reconstruction part is concerned, roads are badly damaged. Bridges have collapsed. You all know the classic example of the Visakhapatnam Airport. It was inundated. For about 10-15 days, flights were not operated. The senior leader from the Congress Party, Dr. Subbarami Reddy represents that area. The people of Visakhapatnam have suffered a lot.

The other aspect is rehabilitation. As stated by the senior leader, Shri Venkaiah Naidu, the houses under IAY should be allotted immediately to the affected States. The cost of the unit is not at all sufficient to meet the requirements as the cost of steel and cement has been drastically increases. It is not at all sufficient to build a house with the norms and guidelines provided by the Government of India under the IAY Scheme. Sir, I would like to request the Government to enhance the unit cost.

Sir, I personally went to two districts, one is Cuddapah and the other one is Anantapur. Sir, thousands of acres of land wherein paddy and groundnut crops had been raised totally washed away, and the lands are affected very badly. 'Sand cast' is there, and it is very difficult for the poor farmers to remove that sand to get the land into the earlier position. It is very difficult. Unless the Government comes to the rescue of those poor farmers, they will not be able to cultivate the land. Otherwise, they will

remain as fallow and not useful for them. Sir, the crops like cotton, maize, etc., are also badly affected. Sir, in Anantapur district alone, there is a huge damage. Surprisingly, in the statement made by the hon. Home Minister, he has not mentioned anything about Anantapur. Though he has mentioned the names of twelve districts, he has omitted the district 'Anantapur'. More than nine lakh acres of groundnut crop has washed away. I myself went to the district as a part of delegation from my party. Sir, the farmers are looking at the Government in the affected districts, and they are unable to get any relief from the Government. They say, 'we are looking at the Centre', and the Centre says 'we don't have funds as of now'. Sir, this is an immediate and urgent need. If this is the status, it is the callous attitude of both the Governments in extending a helping hand to the affected people. Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Home Minister to enlighten us as to the allocation of funds, announcements, actual release and actual utilisation. When it takes place, Sir, during September month, the flood situation was assessed and the damage was very extensive. Again, there was flood in October. So, during September and October, the plight of poor people in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh can be easily understood. Sir, once again I request that the compensation or the relief, whichever is announced by the Central Government, should reach the affected people. I am citing another example of Khamman district wherein 18 people have died. Nothing is given to them. Mr. Madhu was saying that Rs. 2 lakh was announced. It is not like that. They have announced that Rs. 50,000 would be provided from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund and Rs. 50,000 from the State Government. But nothing has reached them. I request the friends from Andhra Pradesh to appeal to the Government in this regard. Today, in all the Telugu newspapers, they have narrated the plight of those poor victims. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Some of your newspapers ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Our newspapers! Let them say that they are our newspapers. Sir, I want them to contradict the news item, not the newspapers. ...*(Interruptions)*... If you have information to contradict the news item, not the newspaper, then it is all right. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I come from Andhra Pradesh. I represent Andhra Pradesh. There was a demand when Shri Venkaiah was speaking that he should speak on behalf of Andhra Pradesh. When I am confining myself to Andhra Pradesh, I need support from Andhra people also.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN): Yes; that is good. They will all support you. You are speaking from Andhra Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: ...definitely we will support you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN): Yes; yes; try to conclude. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: We will always support the cause of the people not ... ...*(Interruptions)*....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN): Please be brief. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please don't disturb.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, now it is high time to help the farmers since they have lost the crops, having raised them and lost them. They need seed. They need seed in large number, and the Government of India should come to the rescue of the poor farmers and make available the required seed.

Sir, agricultural credit is another most important aspect. Now, there is a moratorium in Andhra Pradesh. Banks are not in a position to extend helping hands to the farmers and having raised the crops, everything has been washed away. Now, to do some agriculture, they need seed and credit.

Sir, apart from seed and credit, there is another aspect, i.e., cattle and fodder. This is a very big problem in the affected areas, and I request the Government of India to help the farmers of Andhra Pradesh in providing fodder to their cattle. Sir, I would not like to take more time. The last point I wish to make is regarding railway tragedy. In Valigonda of Nalgonda district in the Telangana area, more than two hundred people had died. This was due to the breach of tanks just by the side of the railway tracks. It was not properly assessed, nor was there immediate relief. The hon. Railway Minister was not able to come since he was busy with the Bihar elections....*(Interruptions)*... If you are happy with the state of affairs, you may please enjoy it. People will ultimately get to see your performance.

Sir, this was one of the greatest disasters in Andhra Pradesh. I request the Government of India to see to it that the bridges which are more than a hundered years old are replaced immediately and reconstructed at the earliest.

Finally, I wish to support the cause of Tamil, where there have been extensive damages not only to the people, but also to property, both private and Government property.

I request the Government of India to come forward in a big way, to help Andhra Pradesh.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, the most unfortunate thing in our country is that damages due to floods are taking place every year in different parts of the country. For instance, if you go in the issue deeply, almost forty mollion hectares are being affected every year, if you take things in totality. About 8000 kilometres long coastal lines are always being affected by cyclones. Since 1976, several efforts have been made. In fact, in 1976, a *Rashtriya Bad Ayog* was set up by the Government of India to study and to see as to how best they could have flood relief management and prevent them. But, we know that in spite of the efforts the nation is suffering and various parts of the country are being affected.

During last year, that is 2004, Assam was reeling under heavy floods. The Government of India has put in place a task force to study how to provide relief and long-term measures for West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and other States. This year, unfortunately, again devastation has taken place in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Pondicherry also ...*(interruptions)*... We are all one. We want the common problem of every State to be immediately attanded to. In that regard, I would like to say that besides heavy and unprecedented losses in chennai, Tamil Nadu, Mumbai, Maharashtra, Bangalore, Karnataka and other parts of the State, in Andhra Pradesh, the airport was totally cut off for ten days! It had never happened in India history! Visakhapattnam became an island because of that.

If you look into it, in the last week of September, heavy cyclone and floods occurred in Andhra Pradesh, which recurred in the next week as well. With these two cyclones, the number of houses that was damaged was one lakh and sixty thousand, the number of houses inundated one-and-a-half lakhs, three lakhs and thirty three thousand crops were damaged, 17,000 livestock were lost and 140 people died. While they were still suffering from the calamities, again, in the last week of October, another cyclone came and districts like Chittoor, Nellore, Prakasam and Nalgond were affected. Again, alot of damage was caused. For example, fifty-nine *mandals* were affected, 44,000 houses were damaged.

No, of course, the hon, Home Minister has clarified that the Government would like to provide full relief when they get the complete blueprint from every State. That is accepted. But, at the same time, where do we stand

now? Suppose, a patient is suffering, if you give him a dose for six months, he would die! In the same way, in this case, by the time these blue prints and details come, it would be too late. Therefore, before giving the full relief to each State let them be given some adhoc relief. For example, Andhra Pradesh has reqested for a cash assistance of Rs. 2476 crores and 12.74 lakh metric tonnes of paddy from the Government of India. But the immediate relief that was given was only Rs. 100 crores from NCCF and 1.5 lakh metric tonnes of rice. Of course, the Special Secretary had said that it had not yet reached, but it would reach within the course of a few days. The Government of Andhra Pradesh, our Chief Minister along with all the MPs, have already requested the hon. Prime Minister two days back to provide, at least, Rs. 800 crores as adhoc relief. I am now demanding, through the Parliament, on behalf of the entire State that Rs. 800 crores should be released immediately and 5 lakh tonnes of rice should be released. Regarding Rs. 2476 crore, yes, we will wait. We will give the entire blue print and all details. Then only the Home Ministry can do it. This is the immediate relief. I do not want to go into details. I will be brief. Now, in the civilised world, every country is prospering, and also India is every much prosperous, but still it is a sad thing that in cities like Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore,. people are living in slum areas and in huts. Whenever rain comes, they are on the street, they cry and they have no light. You will get tears in your eyes if you see their plight. Nothing is impossible. Unfortunately, nobody takes it seriously. It is not in the hands of only the State Government, or, only the Central Government. It is in the hands of various Ministries. There should be a coordination committee. Now, as the Home Minister is coordinating and he is going to give reply on this, he must take initiative to see that in future, in cities and in important towns, we should not see slums and huts, at least, within two years. Everybody must get a house. Various people, unfortunately, have small dwelling houses near small rivers or streams. Whenever rain comes, they are washed away. Now, the Government must take a policy decision on a war-footing to see that they are rehabilitated immediately. If you give them alternative land or house, they will go. But if you simply ask them to vacate it, they will not go. What is the solution? The solution is: You must involve the Finance Minister, you must involve the Rural Development Minister and you must involve the Urban Development Minister. The three Ministers must be involved, and then the Home Minister must coordinate. Nothing is impossible. Then the State Governments must be coordinating. Then the World Bank and ADB will give assistance. Besides that, I will give you a very wonderful suggestion without fees. Today, India is not poor;

we are rich. There are so many rich people and so many corporate bodies. For example, you take Mumbai. A number of corporate companies are there. If you look at the book, you will find that there are companies with Rs. 55,000 crore turnover. The world's richest people from India are there. Nodbody carries money after death. They must be inspired to come forward to help the poor people. That is important.

We must take it as a challenge. We must become philanthropic mind or philosophical mind. We must involve the corporate Chairmen and main people in rebuilding this nation, particularly to see that poor people are not allowed to sit in huts. For example, in Mumbai, a number of corporate companies are there. If you give them allocation and ask them that each corporate company must build this locality or area and put their name, they will come and they will be very happy. Similarly, it can be done in Chennai, in Hyderabad and in Bangalore. The world's biggest software companies are there in Bangalore and so many industrialists are there. They will do it. Like that, we must involve the public entrepreneurs. We must involve the rural development fund also. Though Rs. 55 or Rs. 60 thousand crores are there, some money can be given to poor men for rebuilding. There should be a one-point formula...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIAN): Please conclude.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: At least, within two or three years, no city is seen with a hut. Sir, I agree with Mr. Venkaiah Naidu that insurance is a very serious point. Today, insurance is not only for damage, but for income also. But people are not only for damage, but for income also. But people are not taking it seriously. If you see other countries like China, insurance is given the top-most priority. We must train our farmers and also the Government must come forward and see that the crops are insured.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF P.J. KURIAN): Please conclude.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, one more thing is the recent railway accident which is a very, very sad thing. Now, at least, we have to open our eyes. Let us not politicise the issue. The issue is that with the experience, the Railway Ministry, not only in the Andhra Pradesh where the accident took place but in other parts of the country also like Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, States where floods are likely to come always, and States like Assam and other States, Northern UP which always get floods, must on a war-footing, check up the old bridges, old tracks, and,

see that they are properly checked up, and, if they are in bad shape, those must be strengthened, not after the accident takes place.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN): Now, please conclude.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, lastly we must have...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN): Last point. Only one minute more...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: What I discussed now are only the immediate measures. The Ministry of Home Affairs must think of its longevity also and the longevity is the interlinking of rivers, building the dams and building the reservoirs. These three things have been thought over for the last thirty years of Dr. K.L. Rao's philosophy. But, somehow, unfortunately, the moment they think of building dams, building reservoirs and interlinking of rivers, they think that they need lakhs of crores. Today, lakhs of crores is not difficult. The World Bank will give the money, the ADB will give it and the Government of India can also provide. It is a twenty years matter; we must see that, every year, interlinking of rivers and building of reservoirs and dams must take place.

Lastly, I must say that in Andhra Pradesh, a new example has come up. Andhra Pradesh Government has come forward with a new example. They don't want to see that they lose any floodwater to go to sea. They want to see that the floodwater is stored in the reservoirs. Within their State, they are going on a massive scale now constructing the irrigation projects. In a period of five years, they want to complete, at least, the majority of it, and, cover additional 60 lakh acres. Of course, it may be very optimistic. There may be some people who think as to how the money would come in. The majority of the work is completed and they could raise most part of the money. It will be a wonderful example for the people of nation, and other States must follow this method which will help them. The people of Andhra Pradesh will be very happy if the irrigation projects are taken up and implemented in Andhra Pradesh.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN): Okay, thank you. Now, Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, lastly, I again demand that Rs. 800 crore must be immediately released. Five lakh tones of rice should come for this is an all-party request. I am requesting that it must come immediately without any further delay.

प्रो॰ राम देव भंडारी (बिहार): माननीय सभापति जी, दक्षिण भारत के पांच राज्यों में आई भीषण बाढ़ से भारी तबाही हुई है। महोदय, मैं जहां बाढ़ से तबाही हुई है, उन राज्यों के माननीय सांसदों को सुन रहा था। उन राज्यों के सांसदों ने बड़े विस्तार से उन के यहां हुए नुकसान के संबंध में बताया है।

महोदय, बाढ़ क्या होती है, बाढ़ से कितना नुकसान होता है और उससे उपजी पीड़ा और दर्द को मैं महसूस कर सकता हूं। यहां मंडल जी बैठे हुए हैं, हम लोग एक ही जिले से आते हैं और बाढ़ की विभीषिका को समझते हैं। अभी जो बाढ़ आयी है, वह भारत के बिल्कुल दक्षिणी छोर-केरल, आंध्रप्रदेश, कर्नाटक, तमिलनाडु, पांडिचेरी में आयी है और मैं रहता हूं भारत के बिल्कुल उत्तरी छोर पर जोकि नेपाल बॉर्डर पर स्थित है। दक्षिण के राज्यों में आई बाढ़ और हमारे यहां की बाढ़ में एक फर्क है कि हमारे यहां बाढ़ विदेशी नदियों से यानी नेपाल की नदियों से आती है और यहां अपने देश की नदियों से आती है। लेकिन बाढ़ चाहे विदेश की नदियों से आए या अपने यहां की नदियों से नुकसान उतना ही होता है, चाहे हमारे यहां नुकसान हो या दक्षिण के राज्यों का नुकसान हो, वह उतना ही होता है।

महोदय, मैं बिहार के बारे में चर्चा नहीं करना चाहता, लेकिन आप के साथ अपने अनुभव बांटना चाहता हूं। बिहार का 73 प्रतिशत से अधिक एरिया "फ्लड प्रोन एरिया" है। जितना फ्लड प्रोन एरिया पूरे देश में है, उसका 17 परसैंट से अधिक सिर्फ बिहार में है। हर साल बाढ़ आती है। आपको यह जानकर आश्चर्य होगा कि बिहार में अगर एक बूंद पानी भी न गिरे फिर भी बिहार में भीषण बाढ़ आ जाती है, क्योंकि हिमालय से नदियां आती हैं और जब नेपाल में पानी जोर का आता है तो वे पानी छोड़ते हैं, जिससे हमारे यहां बाढ़ आ जाती है। हम बाढ़ की पीड़ा महसूस करते हैं। जब बाढ़ आती है, सब कुछ अस्त-व्यस्त हो जाता है। सिर्फ इस बार हमारे यहां उस प्रकार की बाढ़ नहीं आई है, नहीं तो दो-तीन साल के अंतराल पर भारी बाढ़ आती है और जब बाढ़ आती है तो सब कुछ बर्बाद हो जाता है। रेल ठप्प, रेल कम्युनिकेशन ठप्प, सड़कें जगह-जगह से टूट जाती हैं, नदियों पर जो इम्बैंकमेंट बने हैं, वे टूट जाते हैं, घर बह जाते हैं, मवेशी बह जाते हैं और जान-माल की भारी हानि होती है। मैं सुन रहा था माननीय सांसदों, कि कुछ दिनों तक उनके लिए सब चीजों की व्यवस्था करनी पड़ती है, क्योंकि इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर बिल्कुल बर्बाद हो जाता है। मैं बताना चाहता हूं कि उस समय हम लोग जमीन की ओर भी देखते हैं और आसमान की ओर भी देखते हैं कि हेलिकॉप्टर से कुछ सामान तो नहीं आ रहा है। एक जगह, जहां सामान गिरता है, वहां हजारों की संख्या में लोग पहुंच जाते हैं। क्योंकि स्थिति वही होती है, इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर की कमी, ऐसेंशियल कमॉडिटीज़ की कमी, मेडिसिन नहीं होती, रहने के लिए घर नहीं होते। यह पीड़ा है, यह दर्द है और इसे हम महसूस करते है। शार्ट टर्म मैज़र्स, उस समय हम जो सहायता प्रदान कर सकते हैं, स्टेट गवर्नमेंट द्वारा प्रदान किए जाते हैं। सारी स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स अपना सब कुछ लगा देती हैं, चाहे किसी भी पार्टी की सरकार हो। इस प्रकार की समस्याओं पर जब चर्चा होती है तो पार्टी से ऊपर उठकर लोग बात करते हैं। आज भी मैंने देखा है कि पार्टी से ऊपर उठकर बात हो रही है। स्टेट गवर्नमेंट हो

5-00 p.m.

या सैंट्रल गवर्नमेंट, वे अपनी ताकत लगाती है इस समस्या का निदान करने में। यह एक मानवीय त्रासदी होती है,.इसे नेशनल ट्रेजेडी कहते हैं पांच-पांच स्टेट्स में एक ही समय में होम मिनिस्टर गए थे, फाइनैंस मिनिस्टर गए थे, श्रीमती सोनिया गांधी जी गई थीं। महोदय, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि इन पांच राज्यों में, खासकर के जिन राज्यों में अधिक नुकसान हुआ है, सैंट्रल गवर्नमेंट निश्चित रूप से उदारतापूर्वक सोच रही होगी, एक केन्द्रीय टीम भेजी जाती है, वह भी भेजी गई होगी। हमारे यहां भी जब भारी बाढ़ आती है तो एक टीम जाती है, जो नुकसान का जायजा लेती है और स्थानीय लोगों से, कलैक्टर या दूसरे जो पदाधिकारी होते हैं, उनसे बात करती है और रिपोर्ट करती हैं।

मैं समझता हूं, माननीय सदस्यों ने जिन बिंदुओं की ओर ध्यान आकर्षित किया है, सैंट्रल गवर्नमेंट निश्चित रूप से उन बिंदुओं को देखेगी और इस त्रासदी में इस दुख की बेला में, इस पीड़ा में निश्चित रूप से सैंट्रल गवर्नमेंट अपनी ओर से भारी मदद करेगी, जो आवश्यकता होगी, वह मदद करेगी।

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं! धन्यवाद।

श्री रूद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, पानी का मामला है। जब मैंने देखा कि बारिश और बाढ़ के बारे में चर्चा है ...(*व्यवधान*)... महोदय, अगर हर विषय पर, मैं जब-जब खड़ा होता हूं, तब-तब अगर इतने ज्ञानी और विद्वान सदस्य, श्री जय राम रमेश जी कुछ न कुछ बोलेंगे तो अ।प फिर मेरे ऊपर समय की पाबंदी नहीं लगाएंगे। उस पक्ष के हरेक सदस्य की हरेक टिप्पणी का उत्तर देने के लिए मेरे पास तजुर्बा या अनुभव है, भले ही मैं एक नया सदस्य हूं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो॰ पी॰जे॰ कुरियन): सुनिए, आप सिर्फ इसी सब्जेक्ट के बारे में बात कीजिए, बाकी सब छोड़ दीजिए।

श्री रूद्रनारायण पाणि: हमारे राष्ट्रीय नेता, देश के एक राष्ट्रीय नेता, श्री एम॰ वेंकैया नायडु जी के द्वार पहल करके दक्षिणी राज्यों में बारिश और बाढ' इस विषय को चर्चा के लिए लाया गया है। इस विषय पर काफी कुछ तो कहा गया है लेकिन जिस उड़ीसा राज्य से मैं आता हूं वैसे तो उड़ीसा भी दक्षिणी राज्यों के साथ सटा हुआ है, लगा हुआ है। उड़ीसा का जो सदन पार्ट है वह आन्ध्र के साथ लगा हुआ है। महोदय, इस साल कई राज्यों में वर्षा हुई। इसीलिए बारिश के बारे में उद्वेठा या वर्षा के बारे में मन की भावनाएं व्यक्त करने के लिए यहां चर्चा होती है। लेकिन उड़ीसा एक ऐसा प्रांत है, जैसे प्रो॰ राम देव भंडारी जी बोले कि बिहार में लगातार बाढ़ आती है,उसी प्रकार से उड़ीसा एक बाढ़ग्रस्त राज्य है। महोदय, जिस समय पिछले अगस्त में मुम्बई की बारिश के बारे में चर्चा हुई थी, उस समय मुझे बोलने के लिए मौका नहीं मिला। इस साल बहुत ज्यादा नहीं हुई है, लेकिन फिर भी 11 जानें गईं जुलाई की बारिश में। विशेष उल्लेख के तहत मैं अगस्त में बोला था, लेकिन यहां कैसे-कैसे डिबेट होती है, मेरा कम से कम छोटा या तजुर्बा है, डेढ़ साल का। महोदय, विशेष उल्लेख का कतई उत्तर नहीं दिया जाता है। विशेष उल्लेख में मैंने सरकार से अनुरोध किया था

कि उड़ीसा की बारिश के बारे में भी आप थोड़ा सोचिए। अब जो मेन्यूव फॉरेस्ट होता है, किनारे में जिस को हम हिंताल बनिकरण कहते हैं वह ध्वस्त हो गया है। इसलिए उड़ीसा में उसको साइक्लोन कहिए, सब लोग जानते हैं कि 1999 में जो भयंकर तूफान आया था, जो चक्रवात आया था, इसके ऊपर भी जब कभी भी राष्ट्रीय आपदा के बारे में बोलते हैं, तब उसका भी काफी जिक्र करते हैं। लेकिन अब देश में तरह-तरह की आपदा के कारण, अभी परसों ही हम लोगों ने नेशनल डिजास्अर मेनेजमेंट का कानून बना दिया। लेकिन अब देश में तरह-तरह की आपदा के कारण, अभी परसों ही हम लोगों ने नेशनल डिजास्टर मेनेजमेंट पर कानून बना दिया। लेकिन देखिए और सोचिए कि केन्द्रीय गृह मंत्री का जो प्रस्तावना भाषण रहा, उसमें उड़ीसा एक राज्य है जहां पर ओ॰एस॰डी॰एम॰ए॰ है। हमारे यहां पर थिंक टैंक के सदस्य बैठे हुए हैं, उस OSDMA (Orissa State Disaster Management Authority) के बार में कुछ भी नहीं बोला गया तथा प्रास्ताविक भाषण में भी नहीं बताया गया। आज दक्षिणी राज्यों में या महाराष्ट्र में या गुजरात में जिस प्रकार की तबाही हुई है उस तबाही का निराकरण जो बाद में होना है, जिसको रिलीफ वार कहिए, इस सबको सोचते हुए और अब अलग-अलग प्रकार के नए-नए डिजास्टर हो रहे हैं, क्योंकि जब हम प्रकृति के साथ खेलते हैं, खिलवाड़ करते हैं, जनसंख्या को कैसे भी हो बढ़ा देते हैं और कई लोग हैं जो अपना वोटर लिस्ट बढ़ाने के लिए आबादी बढ़ाओं-इस प्रकार की मानसिकता के लोग हैं, तो इसी के कारण प्रकृति के ऊपर अत्याचार होता है और उसी के कारण अलग-अलग प्रकार की डिजास्टर आपदा आती है। सरकार ने कानून बनाया है तो हम उसके लिए धन्यवाद देते हैं, थिंक टैंक के सदस्यगण भी हैं। हमारे उड़ीसा में भी OSDMA (Orissa State Disaster Management Authority) है। लेकिन आपने जो कानून बनाया है, उसमें आप जो कहते हैं, कहीं इसमें यह तो नहीं है कि केन्द्र का नियंत्रण सीधे जिले पर हो जाए। जिला में जो जिला पंचायत का, जिला परिषद का अध्यक्ष है, उसको आपने को-चेयरमेन कर दिया। यह जो को-चेयरमेन है वह नो चेयरमेन के बराबर है क्योंकि को-चेयरमेन का कहीं पर इतना प्रभाव नहीं रहता है।

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): Sir, are we discussing NDMA?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो॰ पी॰जे॰ कुरियन): मि॰ पाणि, इस सब्जेक्ट के बारे में मत करिए। कल जो हुआ वह हो गया, आज जो हमारे सामने सब्जेक्ट है उसके बारे में बात कीजिए।

श्री रूद्रनारायण पाणि: हमारे होम मिनिस्टर, जिनका आपदा के बारे में दायित्व है, बाढ़ प्रवण जो राज्य हैं, फ्लड प्रोन स्टेट्स हैं, इस प्रकार की सूची सरकार मेन्टेन करती है या नहीं आज यह सोचने का विषय है। सरकार को इस तरह की सूची मेनटेन करने का काम करना चाहिए। सरकार का उड़ीसा के प्रति जो दृष्टिकोण है, उड़ीसा एक वन्यप्रवण, फ्लड प्रोन स्टेट है और उस दृष्टि से आप उसका ट्रीटमेंट करिये।

महोदय, हर विषय पर हमारे राज्य को, उड़ीसा को नेग्लेक्ट किया गया है पिछले छह साल को छोड़कर के, पुराने जमाने में भी नेग्लेक्ट हुआ है, उसके बारे में जरा ऊपर उठकर सोचिये। आज कम

से कम इस चर्चा में दलगत राजनीति से ऊपर उठकर, पार्टी और पॉलिटिक्स से ऊपर उठकर, इस विषय को लिया गया है। आज कई सारे वक्ता अच्छे वातावरण में बोले। लेकिन हर एक विषय में, एक स्टेट पॉलिटिकली अगर इसमें पीछे है, इसके लिए हम जिम्मेदार नहीं हैं...।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN): Please conclude. Please conclude.

श्री रूद्रनारायण पाणि: आप कृपया इस साल की उड़ीसा की बाढ़ और बारिश को भी ध्यान में रखिये। इसके पहले से जो राज्य की तबाही हुई है, जो राज्य का नुकसान हुआ है, उसको आप इंटीग्रेट करके सोचिये, आगे चलकर हम हर एक विषय के बारे में आपको बता सकते हैं कि किस प्रकार का नेग्लीजेंस हो रहा है, सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट की ओर से हमारे स्टेट के प्रति।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो॰ पी॰जे॰ कुरियन): आप कनक्लूड कीजिए।

श्री रूद्रनारायण पाणि: महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से अनुरोध करता हूं कि सरकार हमारे राज्य का जो नुकसान हुआ है, उसके बारे में भी कारगर कदम उठाये। महोदय, आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद कि आपने मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया और सबने सुना।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN): Now, Mr. Thanga Tamil Selvan. Will you speak in Tamil?

*SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN (Tamil Nadu) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the devastation caused by heavy rains and floods in the southern part of the country. The hon'ble Members who spoke before said that Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Pondicherry have suffered due to rains and floods. They also said that Tamil Nadu suffered heavily. Sir, the Centre is aware of the fact that Tamil Nadu was hit by tsunami last year causing extensive demage in the coastal areas. Such a tragic situation was handled very well by the hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Goddess of our heart, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. The steps taken by our Amma to provide relief to the affected are unparalled in our country. Tsunami hit Indonesia and the Andaman islands as well. But you all know the situation was very well handled in Tamil Nadu by our hon'ble Chief Minister who had undertaken relief and rehabilitation measures to the appreciation of all.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, Tamil Nadu has been affected by heavy rains and floods thrice in this month alone. Your good self are also aware of this, Sir, Fifteen districts of Tamil Nadu are worst affected. Tragedy has struck hard the districts

*English translation of the original speech delivered in Tamil.

of Ramanathapuram and Thanjavur where a bus was washed away by the gushing flood waters with 175 people in all. 75 of them have died. The Centre is also aware of this. Seeing the enormity of the tragedy, the hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma visited the affected areas and also deputed Ministers and officials to reach the affected regions and provide relief to the people on war footing. In order to provide immediate relief to the affected people and for taking up rehabilitation work, our hon'ble Chief Minister has demanded immediate sanction of Rs. 3000 crore through a letter wirtten to the hon'ble Prime Minister. She has written three letters so far. But the Centre has sanctioned only Rs. 500 crore. (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN): Please sit down. Don't interrupt. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Gnanadesikan, I am not allowing you (*Interruptions*).

SHRI B.S.GNANADESIKAN (Tamil Nadu) Sir, all parties in Tamil Nadu are unanimous on this issue that the Centre (*interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN PROF. (P.J. KURIAN): Mr Thanga Tamil Selvan, you please try to concentrate on the subject. The Minister can always get up and give clarifications because, he is helping you. But other hon. Members are not helping the Minister or the hon. Member. The hon. Member is very capable on handling it on his own. So, other hon. Members should not get up. Mr. Selvan, how much time do you want because, the time allotted to your party is already over. Mr. P.G. Narayanan has already taken full time. We are giving you additional time. How much more time do you want?

*SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Five minutes Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN PROF. (P.J. KURIAN): So try to conclude within 5 minutes, but confine to the subject.

*SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Right Sir. The hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has sought Rs. 3000 crore as first instalment for immediate relief and has written three letters to the hon'ble Prime Minister to this effect. The Minister here says that they have given Rs. 500 crore as first instalment. All that I say is that 15 districts and even Chennai have suffered extensively due to rains and floods and this is unprecedented.

Roads over 2000 kilometers have been washed away in flood and reservoirs have been badly damaged. To reconstruct all this, over respected

*English translation of the original speech delivered in Tamil.

leader, the hon'ble Chief Minister has written to the Prime Minister asking for Rs. 3000 crore as immediate relief. But in the name of first instalment the centre is giving Rs. 500 crore. This is like giving popcorn to a hungry elephant. I don't know if the hon'ble Vice-Chairman understands this but the Minister sitting there knows. This is not at all sufficient. We need at least 3000 crore for continuing relief work. So far Tamil Nadu Government has been doing its best. Even hon'ble Member Shri Venkaiah Naidu made a reference here about that. Each family is given 2000 rupees, rice, kerosene and clothing immediately. Now every affected family demands that house be constructed for their family.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN): Mr. Minister, I would suggest that you can reply the end. (*Interruptions*) Nobody will get up in. (*Interruptions*) Mr. N. Jothi, this is not proper. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Minister, Kindly note down these points and reply in the end.

*SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Yes, Sir, the Minister can reply later. Sir, the public is appreciating the relief being provided by the Tamil Nadu Government headed by our respected leader Puratchi Thalavi Amma. I have three demands to make.

First of all, the Centre should immediately sanction Rs.3000 crore for providing quick relief as demanded by our hon'ble Chief Minister. Secondly the relief provided to the farmers for damage of crops is Rs. 4000 per hectare under the norms of the centre. This is allocated by the centre. But the comrades of CPI and CPM in Tamil Nadu are making hue and cry for increasing this amount. I would like to tell them that they should discuss this in their politburo or with the coalitation partners and ask the centre to increase this relief amount for crop damage. I also appeal to the centre to increase the crop relief to more than Rs. 10,000 per hectare. Thirdly Sir...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN): You have only one minute more. Please try to conclude.

*SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Yes, Sir. Your good self come from Kerala. Sir, when you are in the Chair, if there is a question pertaining to Kerala, you will also associate and tell the Government to take care of the State. That is understandable. But what is happening here. We have been demanding Rs.3000 crore. And there are 12 Ministers at the Centre from Tamil Nadu. They don't do anything for getting funds for Tamil Nadu.

*English translation of the original speech delivered in Tamil.

They don't do anything for getting projects either. I wish to cite an example. There is a private TV Channel in Tamil Nadu belonging to central Minister. That TV shows all Kinds of news...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI R. SARATH KUMAR (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I have an objection on it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN): Please Mr. Selvan, you please conclude. Please try to conclude.

*SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Sir, give me half a minute.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN): Please conclude ...(*Interruptions*) No. There is no question of channel. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down...*(Interruptions)*... You please conclude ...*(Interruptions)*...Your time is over. Please conclude ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I have a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN): Mr. Selvan just one minute ...*(Interruptions)*...Please wait...*(Interruptions)*... He is on a point of order...*(Interruptions)*...What is your point of order? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: I am not yielding ...(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN): No You have to yield for a point of order. ...(*Interruptions*)... what is your point of order? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: May I speak in Tamil if you permit me? ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN): Pardon me. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: May I raise the point of order in Tamil, if you permit me? ...(*Interruptions*)... When the Member is speaking in Tamil, I also want to speak in Tamil. I want to raise the point of order in Tamil.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN): Yes, you can speak in Tamil. ...(*Interruptions*)... You can speak in Tamil.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, the hon'ble Member has just made an allegation that the 12 Ministers from Tamil Nadu are not taking steps for getting funds for Tamil Nadu. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN): What is your point of order? ...(*Interruptions*)... Please. You sit down. ...(*Interruptions*)...

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*English translation of the original speech delivered in Tamil.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: The Central Ministers met the Prime Minister and they pleaded for more funds for Tamil Nadu. ...(*Interruptions*)... He is misleading the House. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN): When your turn comes, you can reply to them. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I will do that. But he should not mislead the House. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN): Mr. Selvan, now you please conclude. ...(*Interruptions*)... Mr. Selvan, your time is over. Please conclude.

SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: One minute, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN): You said one minute. You have already taken two more minutes. Please conclude. ...(*Interruptions*)... You say only one sentence. ...(*Interruptions*)...

*SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Mr. Vice-Chairman I will just tell the reason for this unprecedented flood in Tamil Nadu and wind up. Sir the water flow in the Coleron River in Tamil Nadu in the year 1939 was 3.3 lakh cusecs.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN): What is the relevance of it to the discussion on floods here now? ...(*Interruptions*)...

*SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Sir, this was the water flow in 1939. After 65 years the river had crossed that level only this year. Such was magnitude of flood in Tamil Nadu. Therefore, I appeal to the centre to immediately sanction 3000 crore rupees as demanded by our hon'ble Chief Minister and also revise the norms and increase relief to the farmers for crop damage.

I also appeal through you, Sir, that at lease now, the 12 Ministers from Tamil Nadu should try to get the required fund for the State. With these words I conclude.

SHRI R. SARATH KUMAR: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in this debate on a very important issue relating to flood situation in Tamil Nadu. Sir, many eminent speakers have come out elaborately with statistics on what has happened in Tamil Nadu. Of course, there have been floods in the country which have created havoc in many parts of the country but more so in Tamil Nadu which has been most affected in these recent floods. I would like to go back a year, December 26,2004, when tsunami came, the unheard word as far as the entire country is concerned though it is very well known in Japan. People

*English translation of the original speech delivered in Tamil.

flocked to the beaches. The water started rising. The water came in. I would say, in Chennai Marina Beach it came to the main road and suddenly the water receded. Nobody knew why it happened. They thought that it was rare phenomenon. They flocked to the beaches and wanted to see this. Little did they know that this is what to be named tsunami, this unknown name, is going to take away many lives in the State of Tamil Nadu. The Coastal areas of Tamil Nadu were devastated. Thousands of lives were lost. Before they could recopu and get back on their feet mentally, physically and financially in Tamil Nadu, they are having a spate of rains, with uninterrupted rainfalls, which have flooded many areas of the State. Many parts of our State have become self-made islands unreachable by people by way of road. Only recently the rail road links have been rectified. They are not at all reachable. The Army personnel who have been deputed to do the rescue job are unable to reach these places because they are totally cut off from the main roads and the main civilisation itself. Sir, thousands of lives have been lost, hundreds of people are missing, thousands of our villages are in darkness, people are struggling without food and drinking water and their lives are in danger due to the possible outbreak of infectious diseases. The roads have been damaged, jungle streams are overflowing and dams are overflowing causing fear of breach. People have been evacuated to temporary shelters. They have lost all their belonging. Sir, people have come to the roads. Of course, many Members have mentioned it. As has been already stated by one hon. Member, it is due to the encroachment. The encroachment should be immediately taken care of. Our philanthropist friend, Dr. Reddy said that corporate bodies should take care of that issue. It is a welcome sign and I hope the corporate bodies will take cognizance of that. All of them are living on roads. Their belonging are elsewhere. It is a very pathetic situation in Tamil Nadu due to floods because which have devastated the mental, financial and physical strength of the State. Sir, Tamil Nadu has been visited by none other than our Home Minister along with other Central Ministers. Other ministers Shri P. Chidambaram, Mr. Dayanidhi Maran, Mr. Venkatapathy and a team of officers for relief also visited Tamil Nadu ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Raghupathy also visited. Our Party President Kalaignar Karunanidhi, braving his age reached the flooded areas, saw for himself, assessed for himself the damages caused by the floods. He saw the pathetic situation caused by the floods. The districts have not even jumped back to normal life because of Tsunami and here after a year we see floods which have devastated the normal life of the people living in Tamil Nadu. After assessing the pathetic situation of the

people, our party Preisdent in contact with the Prime Minister and the Home Ministry, rising above like a true statesman had made a request to the Home Ministry and the Prime Minister that the request of the Chief Minister, cutting across party lines, to immediately consent to the request of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Sir, when the Home Minister rose to make a point here that the interim relief would be Rs. 500 crores when has been given and he was saying that the State Government should make a detailed report of the damaged roads, the broken bridges, the infrastructural damages. These should be assessed and then a report should be given and then the Government would act on that report. The only question that I have, through you, Sir, to the Home Ministry, is when will the assessment be made and after the assessment when will the funds be released to the State of Tamil Nadu which is in total devastation? I am sure, the Minister will take speedy steps on a war-footing and do the needful for the State of Tamil Nadu. Sir, this amount of Rs. 500 crore, as mentioned by the Members here, is not enough but the Ministers have made it very clear that they will render all out help to the people of Tamil Nadu. A Member who has spoken before me said there are 12 Ministers and are inactive. Let me say our Party President made it very clear to all the 12 Ministers that they should take up this issue on a war-footing and do the needful for the State of Tamil Nadu; and it is due to their pressures also along with the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu that these funds have been released and further funds will definitely be released as far as the statement of the Home Ministry is concerned.

SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Out of pressure you have allotted only Rs. 500 crores.

SHRI R. SARATH KUMAR: Sir, I don't want to be interrupted. I never interrupted when they spoke. I am trying to rise above the party factions and I am trying to talk something for the benefit of the people of Tamil Nadu.

Sir, I would like to add over here that the funds may not be adequate, but definitely the Home Ministry will take cognisance and do the needful for the State of Tamil Nadu. Sir, out of certain interest, in this context, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to the natural calamities and disasters happening around the globe. Sir, the Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans State in America and also shook the entire world. The event has proved that even one of the most powerful countries in the world, technically equipped and materially blossoming turned out to be

negligible and helpless while facing Nature. Recently, natural calamities have occurred one after another and the news reports sound as though coming from the battlefield, only the opposing side this time appeared to be Nature against mankind. Migratory birds spread bird flu which has already reached out from South Eastern Asia to Europe. In five Russian regions, quarantines have been announced. On September 13th, 2005, Italian scientists declared that even the less...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIAN): Kindly be brief.

SHRI R. SARATH KUMAR: I am very brief, Sir, I will conclude in just two minutes. I am at the very end of it. The Italian scientists declared that even the less stages bird flu virus H-7 N3H can be transferred to humans. Sir, in these circumstances, the only thing that we should realise what is happening in the world, why are so many calamities striking the world. To generalise the whole thing, Sir, the scientists around the globe have repeatedly worried about the impact of pollution and global warming on the planet. It poses a threat to the erstwhile human civilisation just as catastrophic as Weapons of Mass Destruction. What we experience today around the world and in India is all due to the gross neglect of this phenomena of global warming.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

Sir, before I conclude, I request the Government of India to hasten and speed up, on a war-footing, to develop disaster management teams at the State level so as to combat effectively the natural disasters. Every part of the country should be equipped with the State-of-the-art infrastructure system to overcome the consequences of disasters. People should be made aware of the future calamities that they should be facing and they should clearly be aware as to how to handle these calamities. The disaster management should take care of that.

The funds have been given to the State Government to take care of the relief work. But, the only thing I request, through you, that these funds should be utilised in the right manner and reach the right people, unlike in the previous occasions where the State Government of Tamil Nadu could not pass on relief to the concerned people. I only want the people of Tamil Nadu to demand for relief because earlier many relief works have been taken up in Tamil Nadu but did not reach the people. By taking cognisance of this, let the whole country, unitedly, look into the problems of Tamil Nadu, as a whole, and help the people of Tamil Nadu. Thank you.

SHRI G.K. VASAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, here, today, we are discussing a very important subject regarding the flood situation in the Southern India. I am here to speak for the State of Tamil Nadu which has been receiving continuous rains, at least, for a month. It is unprecedented. It has crossed all the previous 'rain records.' Sir, widespread rains caused severe problems to the people, especially to the farming community.

The normal life in Tamil Nadu has been totally stranded. This is the position in the State today. Even the road, rail traffic has been cut off, at least, for three to four days in the State. To be more specific, I would like to explain the grave and grim situation in the State. Sir, Mettur dam has a surplus of about 3.3 lakhs cusecs of water, which is the highest flood water experienced so far. The Cauvery and its branches have been flooding through the districts and damaged crops and normal life. Districts like Karur, Tanjore, Nagapattinam, Thiruvarur, Perambadur and Pudukkottai are the most affected districts. The riverbanks were breached and most the places were cut off even for transportation. Not only that, the Cities of Temples Chidambaram and Srirangam -- were under neck-deep water. This is the situation of floods in Tamil Nadu. Cities like Trichy and Cuddalore were very much affected and the worst sufferers were the people in the rural areas. In fact, they were marooned in most of the places and they have to be evacuated from one place to another. The intensity of the floods was such that it did not only occur on the river banks and tank beds but also on the bridges and culverts which were washed away because of the powerful waters which reached in a flash light.

I would like to specifically mention about the farming community in Tamil Nadu. The worst sufferers in this havoc are the poor farmers. Lakhs and lakhs of hectares of farming crops were destroyed or still submerged under water and there should be a proper compensation for the farmers. Sir, crop insurance definitely is the need of the hour for the farmers. I would like to emphasise that point in this August House.

During the second phase of rains in Tamil Nadu, places like Cuddalore, especially Ramanathapuram, Sivaganga and Madurai were totally affected by the fury of floods. Two buses, one in Ramanathapuram, and one in Pattukkottai were washed away, where more than 100 people were killed, killed in the sense, they were washed away in the water. It was a very unfortunate incident. I had visited a family, where 13 persons had died from the same family. It was a very heartening situation to see the affected people. I would like to emphasise that the compensation given to the people, who had lost their kith and kin, should definitely be helped by

both, the Central Government as well as the State Government. The urgent task, today, is to immediately restore the road traffic, not only from towns to towns, but from towns to villages, and from villages to blocks. That is the need of the hour. The people who are suffering, who are sheltered in *mandapams* should definitely be given food shelter till they go back to their villages. That is also the need of the hour today. The farmers who have lost their crops should definitely be given adequate compensations. That is the only hope for them because after a gap of ten years, during which there had been no rains, they were having a good crop this time, but, unfortunately, because of the heavy rains this time also all the crops have been damaged. The reservoirs are full today. I am sure, the farmers, at least, will be given some relief. And, for the next time, we will have to give them a lot of concessions for purchasing fertilizers, seeds, and other chemicals that they use for the crop. Those who have lost their cattle, in the farming community, should definitely be helped. Providing immediate medical facilities is also the need of the hour, which has to be monitored very carefully. And, I would like to say that certain long-term measures will have to be taken both, by the Central Government as well as the State Government, so that the people, either from the North or South or East or West are not affected in such a situation. For example, all the water bodies, tanks, canals, flood plains must be immediately cleared of the encroachments ruthlessly, I can say. Whoever may be the person, in whatever capacity, these have to be vacated. That is the need of the hour. Periodical removal of the silts will definitely ensure the proper flow of water in the canals. In the urban areas, the drainage system should be cleared. It is a must that has to be done. Proper soil and water conservation measures must also be evolved. Especially the low-level bridges, wherever they are, not only in Tamil Nadu, not only in Southern India, but throughout the country have to be immediately converted into regular bridges, so that these kinds of bus accidents and loss of lives do not occur when the flash floods take place.

Finally, Sir, I would like to place on record, at this moment, that at this time of calamity and havoc in Tamil Nadu, the Central Government, on its part, has definitely done its best. It had immediately sent three teams — two at official level, and one at ministerial level. Immediately after the Home Minister and the Finance Minister had surveyed aerially, within 24 hours, we had been given assistance of Rs. 500 crores. However, this amount of Rs. 500 crores is not enough for the State. All the parties are together on it. As the hon. Minister has specifically told that this amount

of Rs. 500 crores is only an *ad hoc* amount, further amount will be given according to the assessment of the Home Minister. He had categorically stated this. I am sure, further help will be given to Tamil Nadu, according to the assessment made by the Home Ministry. I would also like to place it on record that even at the time of tsunami, or, now, when the floods have totally devastated the State of Tamil Nadu, the Prime Minister, without expecting any call, either from the Chief Minister, or, any official from Tamil Nadu, rang up the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and said that help would be given to Tamil Nadu. And, that was the best gesture on the part of the Central Government, I can say. That was the statesmanship of the Prime Minister, I can definitely say, Sir. We also know what amount of interest the Prime Minister and the Central Government have been taking in helping the people of Tamil Nadu. Finally, Sir, to conclude, I definitely thank the UPA Government, the UPA Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhiji, the Prime Minister, the Home Minister, the Finance Minister and all the Ministers from Tamil Nadu who have put pressure and seen that within 24 hours and *ad hoc* amount of Rs. 500 crores has been given to Tamil Nadu. It is not a small amount. Definitely, more amount will be given depending on the situation. I am sure, this thing will be done.

Sir, I would like to finally say that we in Tamil Nadu know the plight of the people who have suffered because of the Tsunami, Sir. Many have been denied the right to get relief package. That kind of a situation should not be allowed to arise in this disaster. Injustice will not be tolerated by the people of Tamil Nadu. So, in order to distribute the packages given by the Central Government, a proper system, a proper guideline has to be given on humanitarian lines and not on party lines so that these kinds of works on disaster will go a long way. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. N.K. Premachandran. Please confine your speech to five minutes.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Sir, I will try my level best. Sir, during almost all the sessions we have been discussing either about floods or drought. Our experience shows that even after all the discussions, the result has not been appreciable. Drought and floods have become very regular just like climatic seasons. Just like Winter, Summer, and Monsoon, floods and droughts are also occurring regularly in our country either in the Southern part of the country or in the Northern part of the country. We have discussed a lot about this also. I am not going into the details of the things that have happened during the period between June, July and

November. It has happened in the Southern States, especially, vastly in Tamil Nadu. But I take this opportunity to congratulate this Government for taking a prompt action in respect of Tamil Nadu. I fully appreciate the decision taken by the Government to give Rs. 500 crores as an advance or an *ad hoc* amount as relief to Tamil Nadu. This is not a small thing. It is, definitely, an appreciable amount for which the Government deserves congratulations. There is no doubt about it. The Prime Minister and the hon. Home Minister, all have intervened and they have put good efforts. I also agree that the amount which has been given is not adequate but, even then, within a short span of time the Government has been able to provide such an assistance. It has to be appreciated beyond all political differences. And our experience is that a new thinking has come as far as our urban areas are concerned, especially, as far as the metropolitan cities are concerned. I also appreciate the speech made by Shri Venkaiah Naidu. Going beyond all political barriers, he has made a very good speech and made very valuable suggestions also. It is a very, very undisputed fact as far as our cities are concerned. In Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai, and in Hyderabad what has happened is that due to floods or rains the cities have been flooded with water. So far as Investment is concerned, in these newly built cities the investors are very much apprehensive. So, the planning of the urban cities, drainage and all these things have to be looked into. Also, I would like to suggest that special schemes and plans should be made to modernise the cities in order to meet these natural calamities, especially these flood related activities; otherwise, it will be a very serious casualty and the country's image will be lost in the international scenario because all these cities are prestigious cities of our country. If we are not able to contain the floods and all these activities with proper long time, scientific planning, definitely, it will be adversely affecting the image of our country in the international scenario. So, that should be taken as a separate issue and that should be dealt with. That is my first point.

The second point is this. I am not going into the details of things which have happened in the various parts of our country. Almost all the speakers have dealt with it and a clear narration has been given by the opening speaker, Shri Venkaiah Naidu. Regarding these recent happenings, I would like to suggest one thing, Sir, that is, regarding water conservation. The Tamil Nadu experience is going to show that there is something lacking in the water management. Just now, Mr. Vasan has said about the reservoirs, dams, rivers, lakes and desilting of all these things. If you were able to reserve the excess water due to the floods, definitely, the

water problem for Tamil Nadu would have been solved for ever. So, something is lacking there. Not only in Tamil Nadu..*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI C. PERUMAL (Tamil Nadu): Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him say whatever he wants to say...*(Interruptions)*.. This is not correct. Let him say whatever he wants to say ..*(Interruptions)*... Why do you interfere? ...*(Interruptions)*.. There is no point in your interfering. He is not complaining. Whatever he is saying, he has every right to say, he has every right to say. Why do you interfere?

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Sir, I will make my point clear. I am not blaming or alleging the Government. This is happening throughout the country. Tamil Nadu is only an example because the Cauvery dispute is there. Their main demand is for surplus water. And, when such a struggle is going on, we are not able to utilise the water which is coming by way of desilting of the reservoirs, by renovation of the rivers, or whatever be the scientific planning—not only in Tamil Nadu, but throughout the country. As far as Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are concerned, water dispute is there. I have only cited an example. So, as regards water conservation, it should be given prime importance so as to contain or mitigate the flood situation in our country. Then, as for the urban-centric developing which is going on as per the IMF plan or the World Bank plan in the country. That is also causing very, very grave problems to our country. So, water conservation should be given utmost important. That is my second point.

My third point is about the assistance which is being given. Just two days back, we have passed the Disaster Management Bill. We also discussed a lot about the disaster management activities. Sir, on that day also, I raised the same question, but I would like to repeat hoping that a response may come from the hon. Home Minister, and that is about various funds, that is National Calamity Contingency Fund, National Calamity Fund; and, today, we spoke about the *ad hoc* fund and National Disaster Response Fund, National Disaster Mitigation Fund and some Prime Minister's Distress Relief Fund. So many funds are there and it has, actually created confusion for the people. So, once again, I would like to seek the clarification from the hon. Minister how these funds can be formulated in a systematic way so that immediate relief could be provided to the States which are seeking some relief in case of flood, drought and all these things. What are the criteria which are being prescribed? Because this Calamity Fund has been constituted as per the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission. Because when a flood or drought or an exigency takes place, definitely, the States should have a

right to withdraw funds from the Calamity Fund. The States are not beggars in front of the Central Government. So, the States should be given a right to get an adequate share from the Relief Fund for which the norms for the calamity relief have to be changed properly, or, whatever it may be, that should be changed. That is my suggestion.

Now, I come to my State. With this, I will conclude. Relief should be provided to various States. It has already been explained. Today, I put a question and that is unstarred Question No. 835. I would like to say that the Government of Kerala has submitted a memorandum seeking financial assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund for the damage due to heavy rains and floods in July and August, 2005 this year. The inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the State from 5-8 September, 2005, for an on-the-spot assessment of the damage. You may kindly see, Sir, that flood or heavy rainfall took place in the month of June, July and August, and the Central Team visited there in the month of September. We have had so many such experiences. When the Central Team comes to inspect the drought situation, it rains heavily. Last time, when the Central Team visited and when they were staying in the guest house, they were not able to even come out of the room because of the heavy rains. They had come to inspect and assess the damages caused by drought. So, this is the inspection done by the Central Team. There is no meaning in it. Because when the State Government is submitting the memorandum, one or two memoranda, then the Central team is going and they will be submitting reports after three-four months and then the Government is taking a decision. Sir, here also the Central team had come and made an assessment, submitted a report, but so far no money has been paid. I would like to get an answer from the hon. Minister in this regard. In today's unstarred question, I asked, what is the assistance given to the Government of Kerala for the flood relief? But the answer is still vague and it has not been mentioned here also. Sir, these teams are constituted whenever an exigency arises. So, my suggestion, Sir, is that we should have a permanent mechanism. Permanent mechanism means to assess the damages, etc., which have taken place in each and every affected State. There should be a permanent mechanism to assess at the earliest because if you are going to assess the damages after three months, nothing could be seen and the inadequate report will be submitted and the relief will be very less. Therefore, this bureaucratic approach has to be avoided.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Sir, I am concluding. My suggestion is, have a permanent mechanism to assess the damages.

With these points and with these clarifications, I thank you very much, Sir, for giving me an opportunity.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The next speaker is Shri V. Narayanasamy. Mr. Narayanasamy, I will appreciate if you please take the minimum time possible. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI. V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I will stick to the time ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Five minutes.

AN. HON. MEMBER: Sir, it is a small State.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: But, Sir, the damages are more ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN (Tamil Nadu): Speaking five minutes, shouting two minutes. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, if you all promise that you will not do anything, I will see. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASMY: Speaking from my side, but shouting from his side.

Sir, I must thank you for this opportunity. We have been insisting and requesting the hon. Home Minister that we should have discussion on the flood situation in Southern States of the country, especially, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. The hon. Members from the respective States have given their views. While initiating the debate, hon. Senior Member, Shri Venkaiah Naidu, has elaborately spelt out the amount of damages that has been caused and the relief that is required by all the affected States. Fortunately, he visited some of the States. Especially, he extensively toured Tamil Nadu for obvious reason which he knows better, and he came to our State also for which I am grateful to him. Sir, the floods, especially, in these two States, Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu, are unprecedented because of the cyclonic storms. Sir, there were three storms within three weeks. It was incessantly raining and for continuously one week, it was raining. I am saying so because in Southern States we cannot see such a rain. In Karaikkal region of

Pondicherry, there was 20 centimeters of rain in one day. The main road, Sir, which is connecting Velankanni church and Shanishwar temple in Thirunallar and Nagur, which is the pilgrim centre for Muslims, that connecting road in Karaikkal-Arasalar bridge has been washed away. Therefore, the entire Karaikkal region and Nagapattinam district were cut off and the people had to go *via* Trichy to reach Nagapattinam. That was the situation. Sir, the agricultural crop which has been just planted by the farmers has been totally flooded, most of the crops have been washed away. Unfortunately, Sir, in Tamil Nadu and our State, in rural areas, the people are living in thatched roofing, and most of the huts have been damaged. The main problem is for the labourers, agricultural labourers, who have been living in the rural areas. They have no jobs for two months, Their families are starving. The road where there was a bridge has been breached; telecommunication lines have been cut-off; there is no electricity for three-four days in those areas in one season. Apart from that, the kind of crop which was expected in the season, that also has been damaged. Therefore, Sir, the rural areas apart from the city, have been affected badly. Sir, you are aware that for the people living in the rural areas, their sustenance, their entire life is dependent on agriculture. If their crops are damaged, how will they be able to live with their families?

The demand in the whole House is for more funds from the Central Government, for relief and rehabilitation. The hon. Home Minister was kind enough and he said that the interim relief that has been granted to Tamil Nadu is Rs. 500 crores. We are grateful to him, to the hon. Prime Minister and to the hon. President of the Congress Party, Madam Sonia Gandhi, who has also taken steps to help us. I wrote a letter to the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Congress President about the state of affairs prevailing in our State. Pondicherry is a small State, where eighty per cent of people live on agriculture and all the crops have been washed away. Our economy is in doldrums.

Sir, in our State, we have provided immediate relief to the people. We immediately provided Rs. 500 and 20 kg. of rice to each family, when the first floods occurred. For the second and third floods, only rice was given to the people. All this was done with the State funds. We are able to help them only to that extent. Our position is very pathetic; the Union Territory's position is very pathetic, because we get our budget from the Union Home Minister only. At least, Tamil Nadu could get some funds, but we have not received even the first installment from the Central Government. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yours is a Union Territory and not a State, that is why the problem.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, that is the fate of a Union Territory. We have been requesting the Central Government to grant us Statehood. That has been our demand, so that we can administer our State better. The hon. Minister has mentioned in the statement that the Central Team visited the areas. Yes, they did come. They visited Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry also. I think, they have submitted their first report. The State Government demanded Rs. 150 crores out of the calamity fund.

Hon. Members have expressed their anguish because of the seriousness of the calamity. We had not even come out of the Tsunami calamity. You were kind enough to visit the State and you saw how people in the coastal areas were effected. The farmers have been affected. The economies of both the States, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, have been severely affected by the cyclone. The normal lives of people living in urban areas, especially Chennai, have been totally disrupted because of the inundation. About four to five feet water stood on the roadside. This was the situation.

Now, I would like to submit to the hon. Home Minister that the funds that have been provided are insufficient. Sufficient funds need to be provided. Hon. Home Minister said that they should get the plan first and only then they shall be sanctioning the funds. Sir, the poor people living in the rural areas without any shelter cannot wait for so long.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Please, understand that the funds to provide relief to the people have been released. And funds for rehabilitation and reconstruction will only come after that. We shall have to understand the distinction between relief and rehabilitation.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I agree with you partially, because as far as relief is concerned ...(*Interruptions*)... it is for temporary sustenance. I want. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, Mr. Narayanasamy is correct. One hon. Member from Andhra Pradesh made his point when the hon. Minister was not here, saying that nothing has come from the Central Government, not even a single paisa, in spite of their memorandum. All these things have been said. I don't know much about it. But one hon. Member from Andhra Pradesh has stated so. So, what Mr. Narayanasamy has said is correct. ...(*Interruptions*)...

6.00 P.M.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, I don't want to join the issue. The point was made in the absence of the hon. Home Minister. The announcement has been made, but the note circulated to the Members of Parliament says the amount has been announced, but it has not been received. The foodgrains have been announced, but it has not been received. That was the point made out. That is why the Union Minister has information to say that money has been released. Just now, the other Member has spoken about Kerala also. Now with regard to the Central Team's recommendation, as per the note just received, the amount sanctioned to Kerala is around Rs. 10 crores after three months period. Whether amounts are released or not that also can be clarified so that people are not agitated on this count.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, the hon. Home Minister said that the entire discussion is centering around getting more funds for relief and rehabilitation. That is the point which we would like to make. I said about the first report submitted by the Committee, which has been sent by the Home Ministry. Now, the second team has also gone there. Sir, the focal point is, most of the lakes - I am not going into the politics - have been occupied by some people or encroached by some people. And canals have been occupied and certain people are living there. States are also responsible for this act. As Mr. Venkaiah Naidu said, the Chief Ministers of flood-affected States can be called by the hon. Home Minister. You should guide them; you should tell them properly that there should be no encroachment on the lakes and it should be desilted. For this, there should be a priority so that water concentration can be there because by concentrating water, recharging water, channelising water, we will, to a certain extent, be able to control the flood situation. I totally agree with what hon. Member, Shri Sarath Kumar said. Even a developed country like the United States could not even face Katarina and Rita and the kind of natural calamity that came in the country. India is far better and the Central Government has managed the flood situation in the country. We should give appreciation for it. But we are not blaming the Central Government. But we are for people. People need to be rehabilitated. People have to be provided with shelter. They should be provided with relief material. They should solve the problems of farmers also. They need immediate help so that they could immediately work on plantation. Unless and until some relief is given, farmers cannot start cultivation because all the crops have been submerged, flooded and damaged. They have to go for re-cultivation. For that, they need funds. The Central Government has to provide funds. The State Governments do not have

sufficient funds with them whether it is Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu or even other State. States are not having funds because they have got the funds provided by the Central Government under the Plan scheme or non-Plan scheme, and for this contingency, I want the hon. Home Minister to be generous enough to help the States for the purpose of starting the life afresh by the affected States. This I want to submit. I want the Union Territories, under the Home Ministry, to be included. Therefore, I want him to be more liberal with us. Thank you.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI (Maharashtra): Mr. Deputy Chairman Sir, the devastation is caused by the rain and flood in the southern parts of the country, that is, Andhra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Kerala and also Orissa as referred to by vocal member, Shri Pany. I think, this being the natural calamity, this is rather a national problem. I am happy that I attended the discussion and hon. Members who have participated in the discussion, by and large, have national outlook. Sir, Maharashtra is one of the States - I think, it is not an exaggeration - which has suffered invariably. The hon. Home Minister, of course the Home Minister for the nation, has to look after all the States of the nation. But, at the same time, he comes from Maharashtra, and, therefore, he has better knowledge than me; as far as present status and situation of Maharashtra are concerned, Sir, I don't want to take much time of the House, and, instead of dealing with the general problem, I will deal with the particular problem of the Maharashtra Government in a nutshell. Sir, the floods during July-August affected 10 lakh families in Maharashtra. About 1,100 people died and about 1700 families were rendered homeless. More than 5.5. lakh houses are partially damaged. Over ten lakh hectares of crops are lost. Farmers who take one crop a year - most of the farmers take only one crop a year - lost everything and are left with no means of subsistence for the rest of the year.

Sir, switching on to the point and putting the case of Maharashtra to the hon. Home Minister to secure assistance, I just humbly put forth the efforts for mobilization done by the Government of Maharashtra. The Government of Maharashtra distributed one lakh to the kin of all deceased, who died during the floods. The Government has distributed Rs. 6.54 crores as *ex-gratia* assistance. The Government has also sent the list of deceased for release of assistance from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

This may be my request not only for the State of Maharashtra but also for the States that are suffering due to floods. Sir, the Government has

distributed gratuitous relief to the flood affected families, and, on an average, it is Rs. 5000 to each family. So far, an amount of Rs. 392 crores has been distributed as relief to the flood-affected families. The Government has provided food grains and kerosene oil to all the flood-affected families free of cost, 20 kg. of food grains and 10 litre of kerosene oil to each family. About 20,000 tonnes of food grains and 8,000 kilolitres of kerosene oil have been distributed so far.

Sir, the Government has taken a decision to construct temporary shelter for all those who lost their homes. The Government has sanctioned Rs. 15,000 for temporary shelter. I mentioned earlier the efforts for mobilization did by the Government of Maharashtra, now on behalf of the Maharashtra Government, I am requesting for the Central assistance. We have requested for a Central assistance of Rs. 8,740 crores for construction and rehabilitation in the wake of floods, and, Rs. 3,900 crores as a special assistance for Mumbai (*Time-bell*)

Sir, all the States which have suffered heavily due to floods and unprecedented rains have asked the Government to relax certain norms. It has asked for increased assistance for farmers in view of the complete destruction of the crop. The application of CRF/NCCF norms would not provide enough assistance for meeting their basic needs during the remaining year. Similarly, the floods have equally affected all the segments of farmers. It would be unfair to limit the assistance to small and marginal farmers. Sir, the Government would take the opportunity of reconstruction programme for providing better housing to the flood-affected people. It is, therefore, requested that the norms applied for housing to the tsunami-affected people should be recommended for Maharashtra and rest of the States. (*Time*-bell). One minute, Sir. The special assistance to Mumbai, the city of international importance, should be given. Mumbai's vulnerabiiity arises from its huge concentration of people, old infrastructure, inadequate housing and poor drainage. The Government would undertake special projects which address conditions of endemic vulnerability in the city. Sir, the State Government has requested the Central Government for a special assistance of Rs. 3,900 crores to address these long-term issues— restoration of natural drainage represented by the Mithi river and replacement of storm water drainage in the city.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now, Mr. Gavai.

SHRI R.S.GAVAI: Sir, I will take just two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will conclude it within one minute, Sir, Please living in *jhuggi-jhopris*, in low-lying areas are particularly vulnerable.

It would cost Rs. 1.5 lakh for constructing a house in Mumbai, and the construction of about one lakh houses would cost Rs. 1,500 crores. The State Government has thus requested Rs. 1,500 crores crores for shifting these families to safe locations. In the last, Sir, the State Government has requested a grant of Rs. 1,200 crore for upgrading Mumabai drainage system which is about 100 years old and needs urgent upgradation to avoidflooding of Mumbai in future. Now, I have to conclude my speech. At the outset, I said, the mobilisation was, of course, started by the Government. We are asking the Central Government to assist us, not to share all hundred per cent burden. the major task has been done. we are requesting the Central Government for assistance for the rest. Thank you very much, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Shrimati Prema Cariappa, You have to concluded in five minutes.

SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA (Karnataka): Yes, Sir. It is very unfortunate that the Southern States had to face severe drought in the last four years and now they are facing unprecedented floods. Sir, the extent of the damages and severity of the floods have been explained by Mr. Venkaiah Naidu and Mr. Janardhana Poojary elaborately. Now, I would like to talk a little bit about Karnataka. Right from the year 2000, my home State Karnataka has been facing the fury of nature. During 2000-04, Karnataka had to face severe drought. People died due to stravation. Many cattle died and many farmers committed sucide because they could not repay the loans they had taken from the financial institutions like banks, co-operative societies and moneylenders. This year, Karnataka had to suffer extensive damages due to repeated, unprecedented floods during the months of August, September and October. In the last week of October, it rained expectionally heavy, recorded highest in the last 104 years. This caused severe damages to the crops, live-stocks, houses and infrastructure in the nine districts of Karnataka. Many people lost their lives; cattle have perished; 4,00,000 acres of standing crops destroyed; 309 tanks have breached; and 26,348 houses collapsed. Bangalroe city was not spread. It was the worst affected. Twelve persons died, 8000 houses collapsed, vehicuolar traffic, trains, flights, water supply, electricity and telephone connections were disrupted for about a week. Out of 136 lakes in and around Bangalore, about 83 breached, leading to substantial inundation of urban and sub-urban areas of Bangalore, causing severe damage to its civic infrastructure. The severity of floods *in Bangalore is almost of the same magnitude as that of Mumbai in last July, 2005.

Thanks to our UPA Government, it got immediate *ad hoc* relief of Rs. 357 crores on that occasion, which helped in arranging immediate relief to the affected people to some extent. We are in dire need of funds for restoration of heavily damaged infrastructure in Karnataka.

Hon. Chief Minister of Karnataka has also appealed to non-Government Organisations, industrial and business houses, besides general public to chip in donations for flood relief works, as had been done to help out tsunami victims last year.

Sir, to restore normalcy in Bangalore city alone, we need Rs. 514 crores. Karnataka had extensive damages. Our hon. Chief Minister of Karnataka led a delegation to hon. Prime Minister and also to hon. Home Minister, and had submitted a memorandum requesting to sanction Rs. 1167.15 crores from the NCCF at the earliest.

Sir, I request the hon. Minister to release the said amount from the NCCF to Karnataka at the earliest to restore normalcy in heavily damaged infrastructure in Karnataka. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shrimati S.G. Indira. You have three minutes. You asked for two minutes, I am increasing one minute.

SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. I am coming from one of the affected districts, that is Shivaganga. For the last five days, I have been there. I don't want to go into those details which every hon. Member has already expressed. Initially, I want to make myself clear through this august House that our hon. Chief Minister has asked for Rs. 3000 crores as interim relief, but not as full relief. here the question arises about the instalment. Rupees five hundred crores have been released initially. This is the instalment basis. We have not claimed the full amount for rehabilitation and anything else. Our hon. Chief Minister has just asked for an interim relief. Our hon. Chief Minister has ordered and given Rs. 2000 per family, and five kilos of rice, dhoti, saree, kerosene oil, and other things for every individual affected family. And if any house is partly affected, she has announced and given Rs. 1000 and other things. We have asked for interim relief. All the public representatives, that is, members of the Legislative Assembly, Ministers, local body members and Members of Parliament were there on the spot. It is not that we made an aerial visit. We were in the affected areas and helped the poor and affected people. Our Hon. member, Mr. Premachandran, said about conservation of water and other

things. Just before tsunami, in all the districts expect Chennai, we faced drought situation. I think our hon. Deputy Chairman has visited the Tsunami affected areas and he himself has appreciated all the tune-up work that has happened in Tamil Nadu. So, the thing is that ...(*Interruptions*)... we have finished all the desilting work, water conservation work and rain harvesting which has been appreciated worldwide. Not only on the Indian level, but we have been appreciated worldwide...(*Interruptions*)... I will explain later ...(*Interruptions*)..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no, I have already told you. Don't look there.

SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: And also, hour hon. Member, Mr. G.K. Vasan, has explained and also I know that he has visited the Ramanathapuram district where one bus had submerged. He asked for the relief. Immediately, our State Government, our Chief Minister, has announced Rs. 50,000 to the individual's family, who has died in that incident. So, for that reason only, we are expecting and we are demanding everything from the Central Government. Also, I want to clear only one point. We were in the affected areas and we helped the poor, from Chief Minister to all down and from top to bottom, we were in that area. But there was some press release from so many members, so many persons and leaders that this is the amount the Central Government is giving or something like that. I want to clear this here in this august House. What is the source of income to the Central Government? Every State Government is a source of income to the Central Government for the excise duty, customs, income-tax, Central sales tax, service tax and other incidental indirect taxes which the Central Government is getting. They are not allocating even one-tenth of the amount they are getting from the States. So, they are instigating some...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have not studied the Finance Commission...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: I want to make only one point and I will finish. If the Tsunami comes, some leaders will go to the hospitals, if rains come, some leaders will go to hospitals. They will be inside the house, but we are the persons...(*Interruptions*)...who will be on the spot in the affected areas. We cannot go for aerial visit. We are on the spot. We have given water and we have given food...(*Interruptions*)...We have given all the things...(*Interruptions*)...Within three days, our State Government has restored water supply, electricity within three days. The State Government

has provided all these...(*Interruptions*)...No, no Everything has been restored.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Narayanasamy, why are you aggravating the situation?

SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Sir, some leaders unnecessarily, after all the things happened, they come out and give the press release "We, the Central Government, are giving." We are respecting the Central Government and we are having full rights to demand of the Central Government. But the source of Income to the Central Government is all the States. I want to clear that point in this august House. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak on the devastation caused by rain and flood in the southern parts of the country. Sir, I belong to Karnataka. Thanks to non-resident Karnatak Mr. Venkaiah Naidu, who elaborately spoke on the damages caused in Karnataka due to rain and flood. Sir, Karnataka whenever it comes to the matter of water, it is sandwiched between Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra. It is not the fault of Karnataka. Sir, after 1956, when the States were reorganised, as Karnataka, we have formed our own State. The disputes are there. We don't go to the disputes, but the damage which was caused due to rain is enormous. The Chief Minister of Karnataka led an all-party delegation to the Prime Minister and the Home Minister and briefed them on the damages caused by rain and flood in many parts of Karnataka. Sir, as you know, almost seventy per cent area of Karnataka is drought-prone area. It is not the report of the Karnataka State Government or my own report. It is the report of the Planning Commission which says that 70 per cent of the areas in Karnataka are drought-prone areas. Fortunately, this time, we had rain in some parts of the country, and even today, some places in Bijapur, they have got a severe drinking water problem, with all these floods and rains. This is the state of affairs in Karnataka. After our Chief Minister led the delegation to the Centre and demanded a compensation of Rs. 4,000 and odd crores, the Centre was kind enough to give Rs. 475 crores from the Centre, apart from Rs. 114 crores from the CRF. I am subject to correction. Definitely, the Centre has come to the rescue of the people of Karnataka, and part from the CRF, they have released funds from the Centre also. Sir, as explained by some of the Members, Karnataka had this devastation in three phases. One was due to rains, the other was due to the floods. The flood in the northern part of the Karnataka

was due to heavy release of water from the Koyna Dam. Sir, in normal times, in that part of the year 3000 cusecs of water is released from the Koyna Dam through these channels. But during that period, especially in July, about 24,000 cusecs of water was released from the Koyna Dam, which resulted in the flooding of almost 5 districts, covering about 167 villages. Five districts were inundated by water causing huge damage to the human lives and cattle. Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu was saying about the compensation of Rs. 50,000/- or Rs. 1 lakh. I am yet to ascertain as to what is the amout of compensation given to the family of the deceased, especially, for the loss of human life. Sir, I appeal to the Home Minister that whenever there is a death of human being, uniform compensation should be given to the deceased family because, if there is an accident in the Railways, they give compensation ranging from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakhs, and in this case also, the Home Minister should consider that the compensation should be not less than Rs. 5 lakhs for the deceased family, if there is a death in that family, or any individual for that matter. Sir, there are reports that in Karnataka, there was a light earthquake in and around the Koyna Dam, and there were serious reports that cracks have developed in the Koyna Dam. It is a serious matter. Since the Home Minister hails from Maharashtra, I just need a clarification on this. If the Koyna Dam has developed some cracks or if a damage has been caused to the Dam, whatever steps he has taken to avoid any further damages in the future. In view of this serious issue, I just need a clarification from the hon. Minister to what extent the Dam has been damaged, and what is the action taken on this?

Sir, as far as the Bangalore City is concerned, the city where I was born and brought up, which is the fastest growing city in the South East Asia, about 160 multinational companies have flooded Bangalore. Thanks to the liberalisation and globalisation policy. And as rightly said by Shri Venkaiahji, the drainage system is not right. Sir, with my little experience in different parts of the country, I have visited some of the places, Bangalore has got one of the best drainage systems in the country. For your information, as stated by Shrimati Prema Cariappa, the heavy rains have broken all the records of 104 years. Even then, the Bangalore City has not been affected. Only the outskirts of the Bangalore City have been affected. That is because of the haphazard growth of the city. I agree that in some parts of the urban areas, whether it is Mumbai or Chennai or even Hyderabad, there may be encroachments. As far as Bangalore City is concerned, it is not an encroachment. It is a haphazard

growth of new extensions where still, the drainage system is not in existence. This is the root cause for flooding of these areas. As far as the old extension of Bangalore City is concerned, no area was flooded, and the drainage system was in order. That is how it has saved loss of human lives, cattle and even damages to the infrastructure.

The second part is, as I said, that a lot of multinational companies have come up there. The problem with us is that there are no proper guidelines on urban development. Huge multinational companies—I don't want to name those companies— have come up in panchayat areas. These multinational companies are not in the corporation areas or even in the areas of the municipal council. They are in the panchayat areas. You can't expect those panchayats to provide huge infrastructure to these multinational companies. At least, there should be proper guidelines. The Urban Development Ministry should wake up, find out ways and means and give proper guidance to the State Government, while establishing these companies. As the Bangalore city is providing a huge revenue to the Central Government, I appeal to the Central Government, apart from giving compensation for the damages caused to the infrastructure or to the electrical installations or to the lives, to give additional funds to the Bangalore city to develop the infrastructure and other facilities in the city. With these words, I conclude my speech. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The last speaker is Mr. Gnanadesikan. You can take one minute just because you wanted to seek some clarifications. You can seek them later or you can just seek those clarifications now, but no speech.

SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I am not here to create any controversy. But I want to add a few words to what my learned friends have spoken.

SHRI M.VENKAIAH NAIDU: Do you want to add to the controversies or not?

SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Sir, as far as flood is concerned, we have heard about the various aspects, how it was caused, etc., for the whole day. The discussion was initiated by our hon. Venkaiahji and all others have spoken about the various aspects. Therefore, as the last speaker, I need not repeat all those things. But the only thing is that, as far as I am concerned, I am of the view—everybody spoke about the demands by the States as also about the consideration by the Centre—

that there is no need for making any demands by any State Government whenever calamities happen because we are in the country of India and it is one country. Therefore, it is the duty of the Central Government, as well as, the State Government to coordinate their efforts with the panchayats and also involve the stakeholders, and act in synchronism and unison, and see to it that relief measures are taken immediately and relief is provided to the affected people. Therefore, there is no question of State asking and the Centre giving.

As far as consideration is concerned, the hon. Home Minister has to talk about two components. One is relief and another is rehabilitation. The relief must be given instantly and the rehabilitation should not also be delayed. Both these things should be borne in mind. The hon. Home Minister along with the Finance Minister and the TNCC President, Mr.Vasan, visited various places and assessed it. Special Central Teams had also visited the places. I do hope that justice will be done because the Centre is conscious of the facts, the Home Minister is conscious of the facts and the Prime Minister is also conscious of the facts. The hon. Chairperson of the UPA, Madam Soniaji, is also concerned with Tamil Nadu. All assistance has been given when Tsunami struck Tamil Nadu. The same thing should be done by the Centre this time also.

There is one more aspect. My friend, Mr. Hariprasad, spoke about the Urban Ministry's role. That is very important because most of the houses, not only huts but also big buildings, five-storeyed buildings, are constructed on agricultural lands and low-lying areas without plans and some with plans. Therefore unless we have a comprehensive scheme to see that the houses are not constructed on low-lying areas as also on agricultural lands, I think, at the time of every rain there will be calamities and people will be affected. So, there should be some concentration on that. There is one suggestion which I want to make. I am told that in foreign countries storage tanks are being constructed underground in urban areas. In our cities whenever water comes, there is no place for storage of water. In the case of temples, we have a tank in front of every temple. That is the concept which our ancestors had. There is no storage place in urban cities to store water whenever flood occurs. Thererfore, underground tanks should be constructed so that the water can be stored or it can be used either at the time of drought or it can be used by the fire service personnel whenever there is a need. They need not search for water. Therefore, that also can be considered.

Finally, I want to say, a judge from your State, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Justice Jayasimha Babu from Karnataka, when he adorned the Bench of

the Madras High Court, said that water and power should not be used as tools to settle political scores. Therefore, there should be no politics, as far as calamities are concerned. All parties are concerned whether they are in Tamil Nadu or Andhra Pradesh or Karnataka. As far as people's concerns are concerned, they are united. They want that sufficient money should be given by the Central Government and it should be properly spent and the people who have been affected should be taken care of. Thank you.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I would like to thank the Members for having attracted the attention of this august House and the Goverment to the problem faced by many States in our country. Sir, I would like to offer my condolences to the families who have lost their dear and near ones in this calamity. I would also offer my sympathies and sympathies of the Members in the House to those who are facing difficulties because of the heavy rains and this calamity. Before going to the points which are made by the hon. Members, I would like to give an assurance on the floor of the House that all is necessary to help the people suffering in different States, will be done by the Goverment with the cooperation of the State Goverment, district bodies and others also. We are discussing what has happened not in one State but in many States. A reference has been made to the States which are in the Southern part of our country. But if you permit me, I would like to extend to other States also which are not part of that peninsula. The States which have suffered in this calamity are Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. Now, what kind of damage has been casued in these States, I am giving the statistics which are relevant to these States. The number of districts affected are 292, that means nearly half of the districts; the number of villages affected are 44,906; population affected is 305 lakhs; the number of human lives lost is 2605, livestock lost is 1,04,886; crop area affected is 30.11 lakh hectares and the number of houses damaged is 16.75 lakh. We can have an idea of the difficulties, which are being faced by the people, and also of the nature of the problem, which we have to face and solve. Now, I take the scale of the problem. Most of the Members have spoken about the demands made by the State Governments and about the amounts, which have been sanctioned by the State Governments and actually released by the State Government. There is some kind of misconception about these funds. We have two kinds of funds. One of the kinds of the fund is used by the State Government when the occasion to use that

fund arises. It is sanctioned. It is provided in the project. It is informed to the States. The States know what kind of fund is available to them and they can make use of that fund. The second kind of fund which is available with us is the fund which can be used. It is not actually the fund but it is a system developed inorder to help the State Governments. When this CRF is not enough, then they take a recourse to sending a team to the State Governments and finding out what is the actual damage suffered by that State and when the report is received it is considered in high level committee, consisting of the Agricultural Minister, the Home Minister, the Finance Minister and the Planning Minister. But here also very small amount of money can be given to the States. But over and above this, if money is required by the State Government they can come to the Union Government with their plans and proposals. When the plans and proposals are received by the Union Government the Home Ministry, they are sent to the Planning Ministry and in the Planning Ministry details are examined in consultation with the concerned Ministries of the Government of India and, then, that matter in the shape of a Cabinet paper is brought before the Cabinet and sanction is given and huge amounts of money are given. Why is this kind of arrangement made? As far as relief is concerned, it cannot wait. We cannot say that this is a procedure we have to follow and this is the money you will be getting after that procedure is completed. Relief has to be given immediately. That is why these two funds are available with us and that is why *ad hoc* sanctions have been given, but as far as reconstruction and rehabilitation are concerned, which cannot be done in a weeks' time or a month's time also sometimes, which takes years together. If the houses were constructed in Latur, in Gujarat it took nearly two to three years to construct the houses, *i.e.*, reconstruction and rehabilitation. Now for this kind of activity the funds cannot be on the basis of memorandum submitted by the State Governments. What we are asking the State Governments to do is to prepare the plans. If the roads are damaged, if the power stations are damaged, if dams are damaged, if houses are constructed and if some other facilities are to be given on a long term basis they should prepare plans and those plans should be submitted to the Government of India and the Government of India would certainly look into them and the funds are given. What is the kind of money which has been given to the States? I would like to inform the hon. House that Andhra Pradesh was given Rs. 100 crores and the advance, which was given, was Rs. 129.3 crores. Now, Arunachal Pradesh has not asked for anything, we have not

given anything. In Gujarat, when the disaster occurred we gave Rs. 500 cores, to Himachal Pradesh we have given Rs. 100 crores, for Jammu and Kashmir we have given Rs. 600 crores, for Karnataka we have given Rs. 357 crores. Kerala had asked for Rs. 32 crores, we have given Rs. 17 crores. Maharashtra has been given Rs. 1000 crores and Tamil Nadu has been given Rs. 500 crores. The total amount of money which has been given to these states comes to Rs. 3174 crores. This is the amount of money, please let us understand, this is the amount of money which is given to provide relief to the people. Relief is completely different from rehabilitation. This amount of money has to be used for giving them medicines, clothes, some utensils, foodgrains of some temporary shelter. If you want to construct houses for them, you come with a plan and that plan will be considered and, certainly money will also be given. This is the kind of arrangement that we have and it has to be understood.

SHRI M.VENKAIAH NADU: I don't want to trouble you. I have only one point for a better clarification. The Government of Andhra Pradesh, two days ago, said that the hon. Home Minister recommended for an *ad hoc* relief of Rs. 100 crores and 1.5 lakh tonnes of rice on November 4, 2005. However, this has not yet been effected as it was indicated that the NCCF does not have enough funds as of now.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It is a little bit of misunderstanding. It is not out of NCCF and SCCF...*(Interruptions)*... Please don't interrupt ...*(Interruptions)*... If you want to do politics, I will sit down. Let me explain to you a point. I am standing before you in the Rajya Sabha and making a statement. If you are not ready to believe what I am saying, I am sorry. I am saying that the Chief Ministers have met me. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, the Chief Minister of Kerala, the Chief Minister of Karnataka, the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, and the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir have met me. I have explained to them and they did understand. I have told them that you are all big States. You have this much of money. You don't have to worry. Spend first out of your own coffers if immediate relief has to be given. You can rest assure that for giving relief, there is no problem. We will give you the money and you will get money for rehabilitation also. But, for rehabilitation you have to come with a plan. For relief, you can come with a memorandum. Let us understand what is memorandum and what is plan. May I tell you what is the kind of memoranda I have received? I have received memoranda from these States and the total amount of money, if I have to accept those memoranda, it can be accepted and we will be very happy to accept

them, it comes to Rs. 35,000 crores. We have given Rs. 10,000 crores for Tsunami. We did not give Rs. 10,000 crores for Tsunami at the first instance. We gave money as *ad hoc* grants to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Later on, we asked for plans and when the plans were given they were considered carefully by the Planning Commission and by other concerned Ministries and a paper was brought before the Cabinet and Rs. 10,000 crores were given to them. In the same fashion, here also, for relief, we have given them the fund. Sir, Gujarat wants Rs. 8,000 crores. When I went there and saw myself, we did not wait. This Government did not wait even for one hour to say 'yes'. They have asked Rs. 500 crores for immediate relief. I talked to the hon. Prime Minister and the Finance Minister and they agreed and we made an announcement immediately and it became a benchmark. After that, each Government has been getting Rs. 500 crores. Let me tell you that before this, out of these two funds, only Rs. 10 crores or Rs. 20 crores or Rs. 30 crores used to be given and for rehabilitation money was given separately. The policy we have made in this respect is let us give a big amount of money to the State Governments and that can be adjusted ultimately in the amount that is to be given to them. But, at the initial stage, they want more money, so we have decided to give them. Rs. 500 crores, Sir, it is not a small amount of money.

SHRI N. JOTHI (Tamil Nadu): When compared to the kind of calamity, it is a small amount...(*Interruptions*)...We are also responsible like the Minister. We are not ordinary people. We are also representing the people.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Why are you getting agitated? ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI G.K. VASAN: Sir, the hon. Minister is not representing a particular State. He is representing the whole country.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Vasan, please sit down. When the hon. Minister is replying to the debate, you note down the points and if you want to seek any clarification, you can seek afterwards. If the Minister is replying, how can you seek clarifications in the middle?

SHRI N. JOTHI: It is a part of our democratic system. What is wrong in interfering? What is wrong in asking? This is allowed in democracy.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; no. Then, we should not have any rules at all. In a democratic system,...(*Interruptions*) If you say that interruptions,

disruptions, everything is a part of democracy, then,...(*Interruptions*) No; no, it is not the system. (*Interruptions*) I may tell you, it is not the system. System means that we have to listen to the Minister's reply. And, then, you want to seek any clarification, you can definitely seek your clarifications. That will be allowed. Otherwise, it will be very difficult, if you interrupt the Minister every time. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI N. JOTHI: Sir, we are discussing about the flood situation. And, he says that Rs. 500 crores is not a small amount. But compared to the havoc...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is your opinion. Opinions cannot be...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI N. JOTHI: Yes, it is my opinion; and, that was his opinion. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: See, Mr. Jothi...(*Interruptions*) No; no. Mr. Vasan, please sit down. (*Interruptions)* Please sit down (*Interruptions*) I request you to sit down. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N. JOTHI: It is his duty to help us. (*Interruptions*) It is our money that we are asking for. (*Interruptions*) We pay taxes. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jothi, what are you talking? I don't understand. ...(*Interruptions*) I don't understand... (*Interruptions*) No; no, Mr. Vasan, you please sit down. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N. JOTHI: Mr. Vasan is more disturbed than the Minister. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI G.K. VASAN: ...there is no need (*Interruptions*) Hon. Members from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Pondicherry, etc. are from here. Everybody is concerned for his State (*Interruptions*). Let the Central Government give their dues (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down (*Interruptions*) Please sit down. (*Interruptions*) request all the Members to listen to the hon. Minister. And, then, if you want to seek any clarification, and the Chair allows you, you can raise that (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, fortunately for me, all the hon. Chief Ministers, including the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu understand the situation. And, they are willing to cooperate. They do need a lot of more money. And, they also know that, at least, some amount of money, more

than what has already been given, would be given to them. So, they have no difficulty. But supposing, we don't take these things in a correct perspective, we are likely to form a wrong opinion. And, if you form a wrong opinion and talk about it, in the House and outside the House also, what is the result of it? Those poor people, who are suffering, will feel helpless. In spite of the fact that the Government of India is there, the State Government is there, and all the hon. Members are there, because of your own statements, they will feel helpless. Let them not feel helpless. The country is not helpless; the Government of India is not helpless. And, I have full faith in the State Governments also, who are strong enough, imaginative enough, who will be able to manage these things. For political reasons, if you go on criticising each other, the result will be, there will be fear psychosis. This has to be avoided.

Now, one argument, advanced here, is, "You are not giving money out of your pocket." Whose pocket is this? This is country's pocket. You should have to understand if the Government of Maharashtra is making a lot of money, giving more money as income tax or the customs than other States more taxes, have you realised that the Government of India, excepting the Union Territories, does not have any other territory? Everything that comes in the coffers of the Government of India goes back to the state Governments. This is an adjustment. But if you keep on saying that you are contributing so much and you are not being given enough money, will result in a psychology that will disturb the unity of this country. If the people are working and paying taxes, they should be thanked. And, if the government of India is getting taxes, it cannot spend it on anyone else because all the citizens of all the States are the citizens of the country. There is no citizen of the Government of India. There is no territory of the Government of India, except Delhi, Pondicherry and Andaman and Nicobar. Every pie goes back to the States -- you have to realise it -- for protecting them, for providing security, for developmental purposes, for power generation. Why don't you please realise this thing? And, if you realise this and, then, project this issue in this fashion, probably there will not be disunity, and feeling that I have discriminated against you. We are here. We may belong to different parties, yet, we are all citizens of this country, and there shall be no difficulty in doing this thing. We have not taken a single minute to decide to give Rs. 500 crores to Gujarat or to Tamil Nadu. We do not think that they do not belong to our party, that is not our attitude. People are ours. Parties may be different, but people are ours, the land is ours, and that is our approach. That is

why, at the beginning itself I said that I condole and I sympathise and, at the same time, I give you the assurance that the money required shall be given to you in accordance with the rules of procedure after examining the demands made by the Government when they submit their plans to us. There is no difficulty. We are strong enough. You should be happy that the country is strong enough. We means, not the people who are sitting on this side, the entire country is strong enough. Let us understand this please. Go back to your own people and tell them that you are strong enough to get the required assistance from the Union Government. Don't say that the Union Government is saying this. You say that you are strong enough to get the money and, I will say from here, "He is right."

But if you come here and go out and say that enough money is not given, what will be the result of it? The poor man suffers, he does not know all these intricacies. That is why, my request is, please do not have any misgiving on this point that the necessary amount required even for rehabilitation as per the provisions of the law and the Constitution shall be given to you whether that area belongs to one party or the other party. Let there be no confusion on this point.

Sir, now, there is one more misunderstanding on norms. Some of the Members said that let there be uniform norms. Now, the Government of India does have the norms to help the people under these two schemes. But, these are too small schemes. But, we are not binding the hands of the State Governments. I am telling them that look, let there be uniformity in the assistance given by you. The policy adopted by our Government is that this is our norm, over and above that if you want to give, and if you what to adjust that amount, which is utilised for that purpose, in the total amount of money you will be expecting from the Government of India, we shall have no difficulty. We have given the liberty to the State Governments of Maharashtra Government, Tamil Nadu Government, Andhra Pradesh Government, Kerala Government, and the Jammu and Kashmir Government, and we have said that you adopt your own norms according to the conditions prevailing over there in order to help the people in the best possible manner. This is the norm. The amount of money, which is given to the members of the families who have lost their near and dear ones, has to be decided by them. A particular amount of money is given by us from here, if they want to add something more than that, they can do it. We are not saying that don't do it.

Having said this thing, I will come to the very many good points that have been made by the first speaker who initiated the debate today.

7.00 P.M.

I think those are the points on which we should deliberate, we should come to certain conclusions, and you should give us the guidance as to how the Government of India should function on thse things. One of the points which was made was the problem faced in the cities. Now, because of the rains, cities have faced problems. The cities of Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai, and there are many other cities which have faced these problems. And, certainly, these problems have to be solved. If we don't solve these problems, at least, from now onwards, they would face the problems in the future. A great deal of problems would be faced by them in future. Now, how are these problems to be solved? I have no doubt in my mind that the Corporations, Municipalities and Gram Panchayats do not have the funds to solve their own problems. I have no doubt in my mind that some assistance, certainly, can be given by the State Governments to the Corporations, Municipalities and Gram Panchayats. And, I am sure, that the Government of India shall have to give a lot of money for developing these cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, and all other big cities. I am just mentioning a few cities, but that does not mean that other cities do not need any attention from us. This problem has to be faced. But then, there are problems and problems which are faced by the cities. I was told today only that the city of Chicago has an underground reservoir of water, and, in that reservoir of water, water is collected which is sufficient for two years. That kind of arrangement is available there. Suppose, a project of that kind has to be made here in Delhi and if we want to have an underground reservoir for water to store the Yamuna water and to supply that water in summer days, a lot of money would be required. And I cannot expect the Corporation of Delhi to find that money. I cannot expect the Government of Delhi also, of course, the fund goes from here, to do it. Even in Mumbai, this cannot be done. In these kinds of problems, the Union Government will, certainly, help. But, may I ask, suppose, there is an encroachment in the area of a river, which is flowing through these cities, who is responsible? Would you hold the Union Government responsible for that? Or, would you hold the State Government responsible for that? Will it not be the responsibility of the Corporation and the Municipality to see that there is no encroachment? Is it not the responsibility of the local Government to desilt the rivers so that water is not spilled over on both the sides? So, this kind of job has to be done by the local body, by the State Government and by the Union Government. When Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad was the Minister for Urban Development, it is for this purpose that he did produce a paper and did

bring that paper to the Cabinet. That paper says that in India urbanisation is taking place on a large scale. About 30 percent of the population is going to migrate to cities in the next five or ten years. That is why we shall have to make a project. That project, that policy or that plan would be used to help the cities to develop in such a manner. But this cannot be done without the cooperation of the State Governments. And, certainly, it cannot be done without the cooperation of the corporations, the municipalities and the Gram panchayats. I assure you that this problem has attracted our attention and we would be in a position to do it. Fortunately for us, if a problem of this nature is taken up on a wide scale, funds will not be a problem because funds can come from any international financial institution, on a long-term basis and at an interest which will be acceptable to us, that is, 1.5 per cent interest. This money will be given for 50 or 60 years. But what is required is the imagination, what is required is the determination, what is required is the skill, the expertise for this purpose. I hope that when this problem has been highlighted because of the floods in Mumbai, because of the floods in Bangalore and because of the floods in other States, it should attract the attention of the State Governments and the local bodies also. Mr. Naidu has done very well by pointing a finger towards this problem, and, then, highlighting it so that we sitting here can consider it and it can be highlighted at the State level also.

Now, I come to problems of the rural areas. The problems of rural areas are the problems of agriculture. When there are no rains, they suffer; when there is excess rains, they suffer. This problem has to be solved. For solving this problem, one of the solutions which was suggested by our predecessors, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehruji and by his successors, was by constructing an irrigation dam. Bhakra Nangal Dam was constructed first time for this purpose. It was constructed to use water in the river to produce electricity, and so many people objected to that. And, so many people went to the extent of saying that the person who was doing it was megalomaniac. But we know that because of Bhakra Nangal the problem of floods, the problem of irrigation and so many other problems have been solved. So, the irrigation problem has to be solved. I am one with one of the hon. Members who spoke from there--he made a very good point--and he did say that we are not paying enough attention to the development of irrigation and agriculture, we are not investing enough in agriculture and irrigation.

We are not investing enough in agriculture and irrigation, and the result is that there is flooding, and the result is when there is dearth of

water, then the water is not available even for drinking purposes, and so it has to be solved. Now, here, sitting in this House, if we pay attention to this aspect and then tell our colleagues in the States that they should pay little more attention and little more money -- money cannot be spent only on irrigation -- that would be helpful.

Then, I know that because of these rains, so many things have been damaged. Agriculturists have suffered like anything, and from here we are giving some help and assistance. But, I am sure, that the kind of assistance we are providing from here under the norms which we have with us today are not going to satisfy the farmers. It would be necessary for the State Governments to have a look at the norms and a look at the compensation which would be given to the farmers. And, I am of the opinion that if you really want that the agriculture should prosper, the agriculturists should not suffer, if you want that there should be security provided to all and if you want that the rural areas should develop, it is necessary for us to pay a little more compensation in this time of need and in this time of difficulty to the agriculturists. But as to how it has to be done, we are not suggesting anything. We are leaving it to the Chief Ministers and the State Governments to decide as to what has to be done. And when they prepare a plan for giving compensation and assistance to the farmers, and when that plan comes here, we will certainly consult the Agriculture Ministry and the Planning Ministry will be consulted. You will not find the Government of India neglecting this kind of requirement for developing agriculture.

One other point which was made by Venkaiahji was very relevant. Fortunately, the loss of human being is limited. If the two buses had not been washed away, the tally would have been less than ten or fifteen. I was told that the five persons died. Maybe, a little more than that number. But the cattle have perished in large numbers. And, if the cattle perished, the agriculturists suffer, their bullocks are gone, and if the cows and the buffaloes have perished, then, the man who is not having a piece of land to cultivate, a man who is not in the Government service, but depending on the milk, suffers. Now, in this case, because of these heavy rains, one of the most important thing is -- and I want to request the hon. Chief Ministers of the States, standing in this House, that it is necessary for them to pay more attention to this issue, the issue of providing compensation, giving compensation to those people whose cattle have perished. It will be the most important thing, and if any project, any plan comes from the State Government, we will certainly have a look at it. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will you please yield for a minute?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Yes, I will. He made a very good speech. I liked it. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: On the crop issue, the revenue manual allows compensation, but when a goat dies, when a sheep dies, the revenue manual does not give any compensation.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: That is exactly what I am saying. When there is such a big calamity, don't be bound by the rules which you have yourself made. You have the authority to change the norms, the State Government and the Union Government. These are not the laws, these are not the decision taken in the Cabinet. These are the decisions taken in the Ministry sometimes. So, it is possible for you to change them. That is why we are saying tha twe are not binding your hands. We are not saying that 'you do only this thing and that thing.' We are saying that 'you are at liberty to do anything.' I am supporting your case. Now, let us not be bound down by the bureaucratic approach. The bureaucratic approach is 'not to go out of the rules'. When you have the right to change the rules, you don't change the rules, and you say that 'this rule doesn't allow me.' This is all right for a man who is working at the *taluka* level or the district level. A man who is working in the Government of India or the State Government; these rules, these laws also can be changed. And, so, that kind of approach should not be adopted. I am supporting your case. You have made a very good speech. I liked it. Mention has been made about roads and railways. As far as roads are concerned, I know that in Tamil Nadu, especially, and in some other States like Gujarat also, vast areas were covered with water. The roads have been damaged a great deal and it is necessary for us to repair these roads. It is also necessary for the Government of India to give some amount of money. The State Government also should provide some money to repair these roads. I am sure that this is going to be one of the points, which will be considered by the State Government. But if you come up with a memorandum saying that about 2000 kilometers of roads are damaged, the amount of money probably required for this purpose is Rs. 3000 crores, and you should give me the money, it will be very difficult; because after two or three years, you will be asking the person who will be sitting here - how did you give that kind of money without a reply? That is why, we are saying that this is a problem we will solve, but they shall have to come with a plan.

As far as the railways are concerned, the railways have suffered damages in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh also, as Mr. Venkaiah Naidu

was saying. Our Railway Minister will certainly look into this and he would be doing whatever is possible and whatever is necessary. There shall be no difficulty. Now, if the railways are not repaired, there will be lot many difficulties.

Housing is going to be a big problem and my view is that if this problem has been created, let us solve this problem in such a manner that it will assist the people also in a very big way. If people living in the huts and small houses have lost their houses, or their houses are damaged, it should be possible for the State Govt. to construct new houses and give them. When in Latur earthquake took place, people who were living in bing *wadas*, and big palatial buildings, as well as medium and small houses, and houses with thatched roofs suffered damages. All of them were given houses. The person who was earlier living in a thatched hut and received the house later was the happiest man; and the person used to living in palatial houses thought that he got a house that had only three or four rooms and was a little unhappy. But he also did understand.

Now, I would like to say that if this calamity has occurred, let us also solve this problem. Fortunately for Tamil Nadu, housing has been done in a very, very proper manner so far. Probably since the last ten years or more, housing has been paid attention to and that problem has been solved. And in Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Maharashtra, where rains have been widespread, this problem can be solved.

Now, Sir, what has been done by the Government of India up to this time? I would like to say that we tried to create an understanding with the State Government that in this item of difficulty they were not alone and that the Government of India would stand by them. And what did we do? We said, if you want some money, we will give you money. And we did give some money. If the Government of Tamil Nadu has given me a memorandum asking for Rs. 3000 crores, a part of it is for rehabilitation, which can wait. But for relief, Rs. 500 crores should be sufficient and it will be given. But then, there was an understanding between the Government. I talked to the officers there. I could have spoken to the Chief Minister but she was also touring. Shri Vasan was also with us. We all could have talked to her and others also, but she was touring. On other occasions we had the the opportunity to discuss these things. We were doing it. With this kind of calamity, what we did immediately was, we generated a psychology and gave them the money. Now, what kind of assistance was given? When I was there, they said that they wanted a

few more columns of army to help the people. We said it would be done. They said that they wanted some more boats to be given. We said that it would be done. Then they said that some helicopters need to be provided. We said that it would be done, because these are things, which are not available with the State Government. We would like to give these kinds of things to them and we did it. Maybe, they wanted more helicopters and more boats. Now, whatever we could give we gave them.

I was in Gujarat and I was talking to the Chief Minister over there. When I went out and flew over the area, it was like an ocean; the entire area was flooded with water. They were saying that it was not possible to reach there and they did not have the boats. You know what we did? We had the boats in the North-Eastern States, Bihar and Arunachal Pradesh. We flew them from there to these areas! We brought them from there to this area, which State Governments could not have done. That does not mean that it was a big, big thing to do. But it did mean an approach to the problem. Whenever it is possible, we would like to do it. One of the things which is happening and is very rightly pointed out is the rise in prices of essential commodities. This is something in which the Government of India can help. The Agriculture Minister and the Ministry have given any amount of foodgrains required by the State Governments and lakhs of tonnes of foodgrains have been given. We are in a position and we have helped them also. We can give foodgrains, but there are no other things in the godowns of the Government. Now those things are with others. I would like to appeal from here that in the days of such calamities, there should be an attempt on behalf of everybody concerned to help the neighbour as much as possible and not to exploit the situation. So, the price rise can be stopped. The price rise is artificial. It the price rise is taking place in these areas, it is artificial; it is not real. It is not because the commodity is not available, it is because the calamity has happened. So, the only thing that we can do, on behalf of the Government, is to appeal to the people who have these commodities to made these commodities available at a price which will give them profit, but which will not give them an exorbitant profit. That is our request from here. Sir, one of the things which has to be done by these areas affected is the breaches that have taken place to the dams, irrigation dams. I was told in Tamil Nadu there are 3000 dams which have been damaged. In Gujarat also, they are damaged, and in Maharashtra also, a large number of dams have been damaged. It will be necessary to reconstruct the dams. But just reconstructing the dams is not going to be useful. Again I should say

that Venkaiahji did refer to this problem also. Desilting of the water bodies is necessary. Desilting of the village tanks; desilting of the minor tanks, the medium tanks and the major irrigation tanks will also help a great deal. By spending a little amount of money on desilting, they will be creating more capacity for storing the water and then the sub-soil water storage also will increase because of the percolation and things like that. I may submit to this House that this Government, the present Parliamentary Affairs Minister, who was the irrigation Minister did present a paper to the Cabinet asking for the permission of the Cabinet to take up the project of desilting all the water bodies in the country. You can imagine the project, the nature of the project. The village tanks will be desilted, minor dams will be desilted and the major dams will also be desilted. When this is done, you can imagine the impact of this project on the economy of the country, on the rural areas, on the lives of the agriculturists, and on the producton that we will increase. Fortunately, for this project also I am told, I am not so sure, by some important officer working in the international financial organisation that all the money you need for this purpose will be available to you. If you need Rs.50,000 crores or Rs.1,00,000 crore or Rs.2,00,000 crores, it will be available. We are paying our attention to this project, and let us hope that this will happen. Sir, I was asked by the hon. Members that let there be an all-party meeting. I will be very happy to invite the leaders of all the parties and the Government would be very happy to discuss with them. But allow me to submit that there is no better forum for all - party discussion than the Parliament itself. In the Rajya Sabha and in the Lok Sabha, leaders and Members belonging to all parties are sitting. But if you hold the meeting outside, only a few of them would be able to attend it. But if you think that it has to be done, we would be happy to discuss this matter in greater detail and get your help also.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Whatever you said is right, but the demand is more in the States and in the districts. Once you set the trend, they will follow.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: As far as I am concerned, as far as the Government of India is concerned, whenever we went to the States, we did talk to those who were in power as well as those who were in Opposition. Sometimes, we found difficulty also. Both of them were feeling sorry because we were talking to both of them. That was also a problem. But, then, Sir, if it is necessary, we will pass on this instruction, our request to them that this is what is suggested on the floor of the House, and, if it is necessary, it should be done.

Sir, I have to submit that when emergency arises, all of us want that things should be done without any delays, immediately and urgently. And, sometimes, our officer friends who know what happens in the future, they think that things should be doen according to the rules so that tomorrow nobody should ask them the questions. But, we who are elected representatives, who are more acquainted with the feelings of the people and less acquainted with the rules say, "no, no, this has to be done, you do it", and we get the things done. And, once these things are got done, after two or three years, somebody writes a paragraph and somebody is asked to explain.

I share with you some personal experience here. When the earthquake took place in Latur, the District Collector there was not sleeping in the nights, he was going from place to place, working and helping people and he was finding it very difficult to provide some of the things, small things to be provided to them. And it was not possible always for him to reach the State Government, get the permission, issue the tenders, get the things and then distribute them. When he explained this thing, the leaders at the State level said, "this is an emergency, you should understand, do it". And, he did it. But, after that, there was a para, and, it said "investigate, prosecute". Fortunately, for him, the leadership at the State level was strong enough and conscious of what they had done, what they had asked him to do, and, they said, I ordered him to it and he did it to meet the emergency, and, I am not going to prosecute him. He did it but, then, it did happen. The same thing happens here. Today, I know that you are all asking that the money should be given to them. Supposing, we release the money on the basis of memorandum, tomorrow you will ask, is this the way? Suppose I give the money and the State Government spends the money because as far as spending money is concerned, it is the State Government that will be responsible and they spend the money. They too have their difficulty, they may belong to any party but they have their own difficulty. If they spend the money, tomorrow you may go and ask why did you do it? Nobody would say that there was a person who was suffering and we did not want him to suffer or to die, and, so we did it. Nobody will ask this. Now, that is why this disaster management requires imagination, disaster management requires planning. It is a long-term planning which will help and that is why we have created NDMA. But, here also conflicts do take place, and, here also, the problems have to be solved. Conflicts between parties, conflicts between Union Government and the State Government, conflicts between

the officers belonging to one department and the other departments, conflicts between one authority and others, do take place, and, we have to slove that problem. But we will solve that problem. There is no problem. So, I would request for an understanding from all the hon. Members if while trying to do the things without delays, if we are trying to be correct, please do understand that it is not to impose our authority on anybody but to see that in future, those people who have really come forth to help are not put in difficulty and do not become answerable. Here, the balance has to be struck. The interests have to be balanced. The interests of both things have to be balanced, and, I hope, it will be done. Let me say and conclude by saying that we, not this Government alone, we, the people in India, are capable of meeting the requirements and we will meet the requirements and try to be as correct as possible. But, we will not be bureaucratic in approach, only putting our finger on the rule and saying that his cannot be done. We will strike the balance and do it. I, again, would like to thank all the hon. Members, who have made really very good points. We have noted these points and we would like to act on them. Any ti,e you want to give us any suggestion, you are most welcome and it will be acted upon, if action can be taken. Thank you.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Kerala): I have got one point, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Is there anything left to ask? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI N. JOTHI: I want a clarification, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Only one point, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: One minute. Wait, wait ...*(Interruptions)*...

I will give you time ...*(Interruptions)*... You see, it was a two-and-a-half hour discussion and we have converted it into a five-and-a-half hour discussion. So, there is a time-limit also. I would allow only clarifications. I will not allow any speeches to be made. I will allow only pointed clarifications, if any are there. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to Q. No. 835, from Shri N.K. Premachandran, where a specific question was raised as to how much money has been given to that State. I only want a clarification. It is not necessary to give it here only. You please look into this question. Please, have a look at it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Sarath Kumar.

SHRI R. SARATH KUMAR: Sir, The points that I asked have been clarified in his speech. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you. Mr. Jothi.

SHRI N. JOTHI: Sir, I heard the hon. Home Minister. He says, one part of release is called release under the plans. ...*(Interruptions)*... For that, he says, plan should come. Now, Sir, we require the funds urgently. The people have lost their houses ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, don't make any speeches.

SHRI N. JOTHI: No, no, Sir, I am not making any speech. This is a human problem, which I am explaining, Sir. I won't get any credit out of it. I feel very unhappy and I am sharing this burden with the hon. Home Minister.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, be on the point.

SHRI N. JOTHI: Sir, people have lost their houses. If the plans have to come and then the funds are to be sanctioned, the suffering will be much more. So, they should be given funds immediately. They should be fed immediately. So, what I want is, funds should be released immediately for shelter, and PDS rice should be given immediately. Another thing is, immediate support is required from the Central Government. I am sorry to say, his own junior colleague has said ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: He is creating some controversy ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI N. JOTHI: No, no, it is not controversy. The Minister has said this. A Minister has said that your Chief Minister did not receive the Home Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no, this is not a pointed question. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no. ...*(Interruptions)*... You are again, Mr. Jothi ...*(Interruptions)*. You should have ignored it ...*(Interruptions)*... You should have ignored it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI N. JOTHI: Only one point, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... Only one point, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... I want to say only one more point, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM (Tamil Nadu): Let me also talk about ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no, you please sit down ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI N. JOTHI: In Tamil Nadu, people are reeling under water. The people have lost their houses. We are not undertaking any search for the missing people. ...*(Interruptions)*... I think you should understand that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I think, there is ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI N. JOTHI: You should understand ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, there is definately some misunderstanding. It should not be there. I have absolutely no problem in dealing with the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. When she comes here, we meet; when I go there, we meet. And supposing, she was flying over the affected areas and not able to do it, I did not misunderstand that. She did send her officers to talk to me, and they explained to me. They said that madam was flying over the affected areas, so, she is not here, but she would have very much liked to be here. I said I understand that. You please tell her that I have no misunderstanding on this point. And, why should the Home Minister or, for that matter, any other Minister, expect the Chief Minister to ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI N. JOTHI: You can tell this ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no, please, Mr. Jothi ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I can tell you also not to rake up this ...*(Interruptions)*... We have no problem. She was doing her duty, and I was doing my duty. In fact, I have sent a message that it is not necessary to meet if it is not possible. We can talk on telephone.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, people normally will not be happy about this sort of discussion at all. Let us try to avoid it. I have only three small queries. What the hon. Home Minister has said in the House, I am ready to take it on the face value. He has assured everything. We will be thankful to him. First question is this. Can he supply us the details of the amount of money spent by each State under CRF and NCCF? You can give it now or you can give it afterwards-- name of each State; what is spent by them; what is allocated out of this Fund; and what is the *ad hoc* relief for each State. You have mentioned only one figure earlier. I would like you to give figures on these counts also. States can spend money out of the allocations made to them. That is the revised rule now. What is it that they have spent? What is it that they have asked from the Centre? And how much has been released? And when was it released? That is one.

Secondly, Sir, State after State, there seems to be a lot of misunderstanding. That is why I was saying the Centre should call the States. I have with me the Report of the Government of Karnataka. All the friends do have it. It says the present rules or the guidelines under CRF do not allow this, and do not allow this. I am not reading the entire thing -- it is about housing, about crop compensation, and regarding various other aspects it is coming in the way. So, we should assure them or guide them that they need not worry about CRF norms. They can revise the norms or take permission from the Centre to revise those norms. This clarity has to be there. It is an official document given by the Government of Karnataka. I have another official document given by the Andhra Pradesh Government. This is the second clarification.

Another third small clarification is about rice. How much has been asked by each of the States? How much has been allotted? Whether they have released it or not. That is the third point.

Fourth and the last point is whether the Government of India, in principle, is agreeing to the proposal to help the States with regard to waiver of the interest portion, not main loan. Main loan is not possible because it will be a huge burden, and banks have to bear it. In the hour of distress, can we help to waive the interest portion of the farmers who have taken loans in this regard?

Sir, lastly, my appeal to you is with regard to your remark. This issue is related to five States, but the hon Home Minister was kind enough to add other States also. Huge population of our country is affected by it. We are discussing political issues, we are quarrelling with each other, and we are spending a lot of time. If this issue takes more than half an hour or an hour, one need not bother about it. People will be happy It is not a big issue for media people, and we will not find many reports in the newspapers tomorrow. But, at least, we will have the satisfaction I have the satisfaction. You made certain points and the Minister also...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What I mean is that we can spend even more time, but let it be more...

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Sir, my specific question is this. We always find that the Central Government has allocated this much of amount, but the State Government says another thing. Mr. Venkaiah Naiduji has also told it. But still confusion is there That is why I am again putting this question. The Central Team visited Kerala in the month of September.

They have assessed the damages. But my specific question is this; on the basis of the assessment made by the Central Team, how much amount has been given to the State of Kerala?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, Venkaiahji has made certain points. In the case of tsunami, some sort of rescheduling and some sort of relief on interest was given. I am not in a position to say either 'yes' or 'no' on this point. But that was done in the case of tsunami. I will certainly bring it to the notice of the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister, and we will take a collective decision. And collective decision, you can realise, would be helpful rather than negative. But this is not an assurance. It should not be taken as an assurance and notice should not be sent to me.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: But the feelings of the House should be conveyed to the Cabinet.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: That we will do. The second point was about the norms and all those things. Now, the difficulty is when I talked to the Chief Ministers or the Ministers, there is no difficulty, but what we discussed with the Ministers and the Chief Ministers is not always percolated to all levels in the Ministry also. Then, through the media, it comes back again and in the process, it gets diluted or distorted. So, there is misunderstanding. I have spoken to all the Chief Ministers who are the Heads of the State Governments and they have no difficulty in this. And even if there are some difficulties, we will sort them out. As far as actual sanctioning and all these things are concerned, what we do when the demands come, we just discuss sometimes on telephone that this is the kind of demand, how much we can give and we sanction it. Sometimes, if there is any difficulty in actually getting that money to that place, if it is brought to our notice, we will see that the money goes. Once we have said that this money is sanctioned, if it is not released, we will see that it is done. I shall have to get the information on these points and do it. What was your point Mr. Premachandran? I showed you the figures. Let us understand that the Kerala Chief Minister and his Ministers came to me. I had discussion with them. Now, I get the information. From advance release of second disbursement of CRF, Rs. 32 crores are given and from NCCF, Rs. 17 crores are given. When I discussed this matter with the Chief Minister, he did understand. He had no difficulty. And I have been telling the Chief Ministers, look for your State spending this kind of money should not be difficult. You spend it and you send the papers to us and we will fulfil the formalities and give you the money. So, between the

State Governments at the highest level and the Union Government at my level or the Finance Minister's level, there is no difficulty. But when it percolates through different layers and comes back again, there is some kind of misunderstanding. Let there be no misunderstanding. We are in a position and we are talking to each other over telephone, in meetings, here and in their States also. There shall be no difficulty.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Mr. Deputy Chairman, the Minister has stated that the initial amount released is only for relief and not for rehabilitation. I think the gravity of the situation prevailing in Tamil Nadu is not understood properly. Compared to the highly extensive damage caused by floods, Rs. 500 crores are not adequate. The State Government has so far spent more than Rs. 500 crores.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: What is the amount of money spent? You tell me. Let me know how much is spent up to this time.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Sir, still it is going on. It is in the process ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, that is why we are demanding more money.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, okay.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I think, Sir, I will answer this and then there will be no query. I have made it very clear that this is a relief. This is an amount for relief. What is relief? Now, I was told that temporary shelter has to be built. Do you realise that in Andaman and Nicobar, we have given the relief and built the temporary sheds which can shelter the people for nearly two to three years? If this kind of thing you want to do and then construct *pucca* houses in two years' time with good plan and all those things, there shall be no difficulty. Now, those people who are actually doing the job, they have no difficulty. But some of us who are not actually involved in it and understood it in a different manner, we have the difficulty. How many times you expect me to repeat that this is Rs. 500 crores initial trans we have given to them? And if more money is required against the plans which they will send, we would be in a position to give it. How many times you require? But even after Rs. 500 crores I have given, if you want to do politics among yourselves, it is your business.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The debate is concluded and the House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow the 1st December, 2005 at 11 a.m.

The House then adjourned at fourty-one minutes past seven of the clock till eleven of the clock on Thursday, the 1st December, 2005.

MGIPMRNI—5191 RS— 15-5-2006.